

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD -- *SENATE*

Thursday, November 14, 2002

107th Congress, 2nd Session

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REFERENCE: Vol. 148, No. 147

TITLE: TREATY WITH BELIZE ON MUTUAL
LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

SPEAKER: Mr. REID

TEXT: [*S11058]

Mr. REID . Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Executive Calendar No. 16, the treaty with Belize on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters; that the treaty be advanced through parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification; that the understanding and conditions be agreed to; and that the Senate now vote on the resolution of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted. (After a pause.) Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division, two-thirds of the Senators present and voting, having voted in the affirmative, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification and conditions are as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein,

Section 1. Advice and Consent to Ratification of the Treaty with Belize on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, subject to an understanding and conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Belize, on September 19, 2000, and a related exchange of notes (Treaty Doc. 107-13; in this resolution referred

to as the "Treaty"), subject to the understanding in section 2 and the conditions in section 3.

Section 2. Understanding.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understanding, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

Prohibition on Assistance to the International Criminal Court._The United States shall exercise its rights to limit the use of assistance that it provides under the Treaty so that any assistance provided by the Government of the United States shall not be transferred to our otherwise used to assist the International Criminal Court unless the treaty establishing the Court has entered into force for the United States by and with the advice of the Senate in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, or unless the President has waived any applicable prohibition on provision of such assistance in accordance with applicable United States law.

Section 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) Limitation on assistance._Pursuant to the right of the United States under the Treaty to deny legal assistance that would prejudice the essential public policy or interests of the United States, the United States shall deny any request for such assistance if the Central Authority of the United States (as designated in Article 2(2) of the Treaty), after consultation with all appropriate intelligence, anti-narcotic, and foreign policy agencies, has specific information that a senior Government official of the requesting party who will have access to information to be provided as part of such assistance is engaged in a felony, including the facilitation of the production or distribution of illegal drugs.

(2) Supremacy of the constitution._Nothing in the Treaty requires or authorizes legislation or other action by the United States that is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the United States.