The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the “Protocol of 1997”), signed by the United States on December 22, 1998 (T. Doc 108–7), together with the understandings and declarations

Section 2. Understandings

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

(1) The United States of America understands that the Protocol of 1997 does not, as a matter of international law, prohibit Parties from imposing, as a condition of entry into port, more stringent emission standards or fuel oil requirements than those identified in the Protocol.

(2) The United States of America understands that Regulation 15 applies only to safety aspects associated with the operation of vapor emission control systems that may be applied during cargo transfer operations between a tanker and port-side facilities and to the requirements specified in Regulation 15 for notification to the International Maritime Organization of port state regulation of such systems.

Section 3. Declaration

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

The United States of America notes that at the time of adoption of the Protocol of 1997, the NOx emission control limits contained in Regulation 13 were those agreed as being achievable by January 1, 2000, on new marine diesel engines. The United States notes that Regulation 13(3)(b) contemplated that new technology would become available to reduce on-board NOx emissions below those limits. As such improved technology is now available, the United States expresses its support for an amendment to Annex VI, that would, on an urgent basis, revise the agreed NOx emissions limits contained in Regulation 13 in keeping with new technological developments.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SPECTER for the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Michael A. Chagas, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Patrick Joseph Schiltz, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Hampton Miller, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Sharee M. Freeman, of Virginia, to be District Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Joyce J.ega, of Massachusetts, to be District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Jeffrey L. Sedwick, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first