

(1) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are to be commended for their progress toward political and economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for prospective members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) set out in chapter 5 of the September 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;

(2) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia would make an outstanding contribution toward furthering the goals of NATO should they become members;

(3) extension of full NATO membership to the Baltic states would contribute to stability, freedom, and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a whole; and

(4) with complete satisfaction of NATO guidelines and criteria for membership, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia should be invited to become full members of NATO.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this past Saturday, January 16th, marked the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Baltic Charter.

I attended that historic ceremony at the White House and our efforts that day were important not only to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia but to the U.S. as well. This is an issue dear to me; my mother came to this country from Lithuania in 1911 and I've visited this country and the Baltic region several times.

Now Mr. President, the Baltic Charter solidified the international relationship between the U.S. and the Baltic nations by defining the political, economic, and security relations between our countries. It affirmed a shared commitment to promoting harmonious and equitable relations among individuals belonging to diverse ethnic and religious groups. It also stressed the promotion of close cooperative relationships throughout the Baltic region, on such issues as economics, trade, the environment, and transnational problems like the bilateral relations between the Baltics and its neighboring states.

President Clinton welcomed the Baltic nations' efforts to improve relations with Russia. The four presidents involved discussed developments in Northeastern Europe, and President Clinton pledged more U.S. involvement in that region's development and cooperation with its neighbors.

The Baltic Charter does not commit the Baltic states to NATO membership. I believe these nations would be included in NATO, but they will have to meet the same criteria and standards expected of other states that wish to join NATO.

A year ago I noted that this charter would bring the U.S. and the Baltic nations closer than ever before. And, Mr. President, I'm happy to report that the United States has made good on its promise to these nations and I hope we'll do everything we can to strengthen these great new democracies and reaffirm their desire to become full members of the European Union and NATO.

For over 50 years, we have recognized the sovereignty of the republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. These

great nations are now at the threshold of realizing their important role in the peace and security of Eastern Europe. Therefore, I am proud to submit S. Con. Res. 2 and hope that all members will seize this opportunity to support the Baltic states and their endeavors to further democracy and peace in the region.

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SENATE RESOLUTION 26—RELATING TO TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. MACK and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 26

Whereas good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right;

Whereas direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is therefore crucial, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as AIDS and Hong Kong bird flu through increase trade and travel;

Whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) set forth in the first chapter of its charter the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people;

Whereas in 1977 the World Health Organization established "Health for all by the year 2000" as its overriding priority and reaffirmed that central vision with the initiation of its "Health For All" renewal process in 1995;

Whereas Taiwan's population of 21,000,000 people is larger than that of ¾ of the member states already in the World Health Organization and shares the noble goals of the organization;

Whereas Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, the first Asian nation to be rid of polio, and the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations;

Whereas prior to 1972 and its loss of membership in the World Health Organization, Taiwan sent specialists to serve in other member countries on countless health projects and its health experts held key positions in the organization, all to the benefit of the entire Pacific region;

Whereas the World Health Organization was unable to assist Taiwan with an outbreak of enterovirus 71 which killed 70 Taiwanese children and infected more than 1,100 Taiwanese children in 1998;

Whereas Taiwan is not allowed to participate in any WHO-organized forums and workshops concerning the latest technologies in the diagnosis, monitoring, and control of diseases;

Whereas in recent years both the Republic of China on Taiwan's Government and individual Taiwanese experts have expressed a willingness to assist financially or technically in WHO-supported international aid

and health activities, but have ultimately been unable to render such assistance;

Whereas the World Health Organization allows observers to participate in the activities of the organization;

Whereas the United States, in 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; and

Whereas in light of all of the benefits that Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization could bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Taiwan and its 21,000,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the World Health Organization;

(2) The Secretary of State should report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by April 1, 1999 on the efforts of the Secretary to fulfill the commitment made in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review to more actively support Taiwan's membership in international organizations that accept non-states as members, and to look for ways to have Taiwan's voice heard in international organizations; and

(3) the Secretary of State shall report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by April 1, 1999 on what action the United States will take at the May 1999 World Health Organization meeting in Geneva to support Taiwan's meaningful participation.

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SENATE RESOLUTION 27—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 27

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally-accepted norms, stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence or inadequacy of laws protecting basic freedoms;

Whereas China is bound by the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights and recently signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the necessary steps to make the covenant legally binding;

Whereas the Administration decided not to sponsor a resolution criticizing China at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in 1998 in consideration of Chinese commitments to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and based on a belief that progress on human rights in China could be achieved through other means;

Whereas the Chinese authorities have recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism, and detained scores of citizens associated with attempts

to organize a legal democratic opposition, as well as religious leaders, writers, and others who petitioned the authorities to release those arbitrarily arrested; and

Whereas these recent crackdowns underscore that the Chinese government has not retreated from its longstanding pattern of human rights abuses, despite expectations from two summit meetings between President Clinton and President Jiang, in which assurances of improvements in China's human rights record were made: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that at the 54th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the United States should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution criticizing the People's Republic of China for its human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today, I am submitting legislation to urge the President to sponsor a resolution condemning China's human rights record at the next session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights this March and to begin immediately contacting other governments to urge them to cosponsor such a resolution.

When President Clinton formally delinked trade and human rights in 1994, he pledged, on the record, that the U.S. would "step up its efforts, in cooperation with other states, to insist that the United Nations Human Rights Commission pass a resolution dealing with the serious human rights abuses in China." While the U.S. has claimed an intention at least to speak out on human rights, the substance of United States-China relations—trade, military contacts, high level summits—go forward while Chinese leaders continue to crackdown on every last dissident in a country of over one billion people.

The Chinese government continues to commit widespread abuses, and since the President's visit in June, has taken actions that flagrantly violate the commitments it has made to respect internationally recognized human rights. Recently, it sentenced three of China's most prominent pro-democracy advocates, Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Chin Yougmin, to a combined prison term of thirty-five years. These disgraceful arrests were part of a crackdown by the government on efforts to form the country's first opposition political party. Further, a businessman in Shanghai, Lin Hai, is now being tried for providing E-mail addresses to a prodemocracy internet magazine in the United States. Another democracy activist, Zhang Shanguang, was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison for giving Radio Free Asia information about protests by farmers in Hunan province. These events are occurring against a backdrop of growing repression, such as the adoption of strict new regulations on the formation of non-governmental political and social organizations, and the imposition of tough new regulations on film directors, computer software devel-

opers, artists and the press if they "endanger social order" or attempt to "overthrow state power".

The arrested dissidents and their courageous supporters deserve our full backing, and the Administration's, in their historic struggle to bring democracy to China. At the June summit in Beijing, President Clinton engaged in a spirited debate on human rights with President Jiang Zemin. In light of this brutal, recent crackdown, I urge the Administration to bring a resolution at Geneva in March and to register its continuing deep concern on two issues President Clinton raised with President Jiang at the summit—the absence of freedom of expression and association, and the use of arbitrary detention in China. Past experience has demonstrated that, when the United States has applied sustained pressure, the Chinese authorities have responded in ways that signal their willingness to engage on the issue of human rights. This pressure needs to be exercised now. By sponsoring a resolution at the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the United States will demonstrate its commitment to securing China's adherence to international human rights standards.

On October 5, 1998, China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but it has yet to take the necessary steps to make it legally binding. The Administration agreed early in 1998 not to sponsor a resolution criticizing China at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in consideration of Chinese commitments on human rights, including the signing of this important covenant. Yet, the recent acts of intimidation and detention underscore that the Chinese government has not retreated from its longstanding pattern of serious human rights abuses.

It is time for the United States to provide the leadership which the people of China depend on. We must take action to submit a resolution on China in Geneva and build international support for its passage. The U.N. Human Rights Commission is the only international body which oversees the human rights conditions of all states. Even though the resolution may not pass, simply the debate of human rights in China and Tibet at the Commission will make an important difference.

I have had the great honor of knowing and becoming friends with Wei Jingsheng this past year. Mr. Wei is a Chinese dissident who has spent most of his life in Chinese prisons for his pro-democratic political writings. In an article published shortly after his release, Mr. Wei stated, "Democracy and freedom are among the loftiest ideals of humanity, and they are the most sacred rights of mankind. Those who already enjoy democracy, liberty and human rights, in particular, should not allow their own personal happiness

to numb them into forgetting that many others who are still struggling against tyranny, slavery, and poverty, and all of those who are suffering from unimaginable forms of oppression, exploitation and massacres."

Mr. President, the United States must not take its freedom for granted. As Americans, we must take action and sponsor and lead the international effort to condemn the human rights situation in China and Tibet. I hope that my colleagues will join me in passing this resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, January 27, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the impacts on coastal states communities of off-shore activity.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Kelly Johnson at (202) 224-4971.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the state of the petroleum industry.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, January 28, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish to testify or submit a written statement should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Julia McCaul or Howard Useem at (202) 224-8115 or Daniel Kish at (202) 224-8276.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAX CUTS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I am pleased to sponsor the Tax Cuts for All Americans Act with Senator ROD GRAMS, Senator LOTT, the distinguished Majority Leader, and other Members.

Let me begin by saying that this Congress holds the promise of being the