

(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