Mr. President, this is an amazing as it is outrageous. Rather than defend the Republic of China on Taiwan and its right to live in peace and choose its own form of government, Secretary of State Albright has a “very friendly lunch” with one of the highest ranking members of the repressive communist regime while one of her assistants reprimands and pressures Taiwan to appease China. Can it truly be our nation’s policy is to protect China from Taiwan?

Taiwan is not the bully in this matter. Taiwan deserves America’s commitment to defend against China’s threats. Our nation should proudly and firmly stand by Taiwan, a blooming democracy. It is a perfect ally and a democracy. It is not a perfect democracy (but neither is China). It is an ally nor a perfect democracy. Is that so? Beijing administration assures, is becoming more tolerant of political freedom. Is that so? Beijing administration has reacted to Lee’s “state-to-state” remarks by repeatedly reassuring Beijing that the United States is entirely consistent with China’s threats. Our nation should proudly and firmly stand by Taiwan, a blooming democracy.

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Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article “On The Wrong Side,” by Michael Kelly be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(From the Washington Post, July 28, 1999)

ON THE WRONG SIDE
(UPDATED)

BY MICHAEL KELLY

Back in the dead, dark days when the Democratic Party stood for dreams a bit loftier than clamping to power, the labor wing of the party talked about a “whoside are you on?” It was a good question because it was an awkward one and an inescapable one. The question presents itself these days, awkwardly and inescapably as always, in the matter of Taiwan and China. Whose side are we on?

On the one hand, we have Taiwan, which is an ally and a democracy. It is not a perfect ally nor a perfect democracy (but neither is the United States). Formed out of the nationalist movement that lost China to Mao’s Communists, Taiwan increasingly has wished for independent statehood. In recent years, as the island has become more democratic and more wealthy, it has become more aggressive in expressing this wish.

On the one hand, we have China. The People’s Republic is a doddering, desperate despotism, in which a tiny ruling hierarchy presides, solely by the power of the gun, over a billion people who would rather live in freedom. China has always regarded Taiwan as its own independent nation. The United States has consistently opposed reunification, insisting it be subjugated to Beijing’s rule. In recent years, as China’s rulers have found themselves increasingly uneasy on their thrones, they have attempted, in refuge of dictatorships, to excite popular support by threatening belligerence against an exterior enemy—in this case, Taiwan.

For two decades, the United States has supported a deliberately ambiguous policy, which says that there should be “one China,” but carefully does not say who should rule that China. Ambiguous it has been well for a long time, but it is a Cold War relic whose logic has expired, and its days are running out.

Two weeks ago, Taiwan’s president, Lee Teng-hui, recognized this reality and said that henceforth Taiwan and China should deal with each other on a “state-to-state” basis. Beijing reacted with its usual hysterical bellicosity. This week, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan used a session of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to again threaten Taiwan: “If there occur any action for Taiwan independence and any attempt by foreign forces to separate Taiwan from the motherland, the Chinese people and government will not sit back,” Tang said. He added a warning to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright: “be very careful not to say anything to fan the flames” of independence.

Mr. President, this is an amazing as it is outrageous. Rather than defend the Republic of China on Taiwan and its right to live in peace and choose its own form of government, Secretary of State Albright has a “very friendly lunch” with one of the highest ranking members of the repressive communist regime while one of her assistants reprimands and pressures Taiwan to appease China. Can it truly be our nation’s policy is to protect China from Taiwan?

Taiwan is not the bully in this matter. Taiwan deserves America’s commitment to defend against China’s threats. Our nation should proudly and firmly stand by Taiwan, a blooming democracy. It is a perfect ally and a democracy. Is that so? Beijing administration assures, is becoming more tolerant of political freedom. Is that so? Beijing administration has reacted to Lee’s “state-to-state” remarks by repeatedly reassuring Beijing that the United States is entirely consistent with it in this matter. On Monday Albright made a point of saying that Lee’s efforts to back off of his remarks “thus far don’t quite do it.” So, we are on China’s side.

We are on the side of a regime that, the administration acknowledges, is becoming more tolerant of political freedom. Is that so? Beijing has acknowledged the persecution of political dissidents since China began his policy of “constructive engagement” with China. Most recently, Beijing has been hosting old-fashioned Stalinist shows of political dissidents; three organizers of the fledgling China Democratic Party drew sentences of, respectively, 15, 12 and 11 years.

China also continues its campaign to destroy independent religious movements. According to the group Human Rights in China, the regime arrested 7,410 leaders of the Protestant house-church movement in two months last year. Currently, Beijing is undertaking a countrywide effort to stamp out the spiritual movement Falun Gong. The New York Times reports that more than 5,000 people have been arrested, and 1,200 government officials who are movement members have been expelled from schools to study Communist Party doctrine.

We are on the side of a regime that forces about 100,000 women to have “unplanned” births; a regime that exploits the accidental bombing of its embassy to incite anti-American riots, threatening U.S. citizens; a regime that has sold weapons of mass destruction to rogue states inimical to U.S. interests.

We are acting against a regime that seeks to dominate an independent nation to be freed in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.