

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS' GROUPS WHO HAVE VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION TO PNTR FOR CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the veterans' groups which have courageously voiced their opposition to granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China.

These organizations represent over 5.1 million members, who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. They have the national security of the United States at heart. I want to enter into the RECORD their letters, which explain why granting PNTR to China could ultimately place American men and women in uniform in harm's way.

CHINA TRADE OPPOSED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS (Wednesday, May 10, 2000).—Taking into account nuclear espionage charges, human rights abuses, saber rattling against Taiwan, and influence-peddling indictments, the 2.8-million member American Legion today demanded the U.S. government withhold Permanent Normalized Trade Relations with the People's Republic of China and oppose its entry into the World Trade Organization.

The American Legion's board of directors, during its annual spring meeting here, recommended Congress and the Clinton administration force China to meet four preconditions both for entry into the WTO and for ending the annual congressional review of its trade status:

Recognition of Taiwan's right to self-determination;

Full cooperation on the accounting of American servicemen missing from the Korean War and the Cold War;

Abandonment of policies aimed at military dominance in Asia; and

Encouragement and promotion of human rights and religious freedom among the Chinese people.

"China should embrace democratic values before it benefits from unfettered American investment," American Legion National Commander Al Lance said. "The American Legion sets forth the prerequisites for peace and stability, without which Communist China will become economically and militarily more formidable even as it embarks on policies pursuant to regional instability. A something-for-nothing trade arrangement with China—one that severs trade from national security and human rights—threatens stability, rewards antagonism, and strengthens a potential foe of American sons and daughters in the U.S. armed forces."

Founded in 1919, The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans organization.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES, Washington, DC, May 17, 2000.

To: All Members of the United States House of Representatives, 106th U.S. Congress:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States opposes Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. China's policies and actions over the past several years have not demonstrated that it is ready to become a permanent-trading partner of the United States.

Passage of the China Trade Bill would end annual congressional review of China's access to U.S. markets and give it permanent trade relations with the United States. While this bill might provide certain economic benefits and advantages to some American companies, it could hurt other American industries and may cost many Americans their jobs. Permanent Normal Trade relations with the United States should be earned by China, not given away. Essentially this bill rewards China for mistreating its citizens, violating its current trade agreements, threatening its neighbors and the United States with military action, proliferating weapons of mass destruction, stealing nuclear, military and industrial secrets from the United States, increasing espionage against the U.S., and practicing religious oppression. We believe this bill sends the wrong message to China and the rest of the world.

Now is not the proper time to grant China Permanent Normal Trade Relations. The United States should maintain its current annual congressional review of China's trade status until such time as China changes its policy and demonstrates that it is ready to treat its people according to the basic human rights standards of other modern industrial nations.

A vote against Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China will send a clear message that the United States does not tolerate China's persistent human rights violations, and will not agree with its proliferation of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction, its military threats against the United States and other countries in the Pacific region including repeated threats made against Taiwan.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. SMART,
Commander-in-Chief.

AMVETS,
Lanham, MD, May 16, 2000.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: AMVETS, the nation's fourth largest veterans organization, represents more than 200,000 veterans who honorably served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and opposes Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) for China.

While the U.S. relationship with China is important, AMVETS believes that national security issues take precedence over the trade relations with foreign countries. We concur in your belief that our nation cannot afford to give leverage to the Republic of China—which exports weapons of mass de-

struction and missiles, maintains spy presence in the U.S. and continues to threaten Taiwan with military force.

When Congress votes in the House during the week of May 22, let it be known that AMVETS says "no" to the Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China.

Sincerely,

CHARLES L. TAYLOR,
National Commander, 1999-2000.

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, April 21, 2000.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, M.C.,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Please be advised that the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), representing its 151,000 members, all career and retired Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen of the United States Armed Forces, joins you and your colleagues in opposing Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) for China.

FRA shares your concern that weapons of mass destruction exported by that country can be used against U.S. military personnel, and also our Nation's citizens. Further, China already has obtained considerable knowledge of our Nation's weapons technology without normal trade relations. Should the United States open its door to normal trade relations, it is worrisome that China will discover even more of that sensitive information.

One of the most important goals of this Association is to protect its members as well as every active duty and reserve uniformed member of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. To fulfill that commitment, FRA must do all that it can to oppose any move that could possibly send those brave men and women into harms way without "rhyme or reason." With the possibility that the future will hand dark shadows over open trading with a yet unproven China, FRA is sensitive to the harm that country may inflict upon our Nation.

Loyalty, Protection, and Service,

CHARLES L. CALKINS,
National Executive Secretary.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2000.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: The Reserve Officers Association ("ROA"), representing 80,000 officers in all seven Uniformed Services, is concerned about the proposal to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") to China.

ROA acknowledges the importance of our relationship with China, including our growing economic ties to China. Nevertheless, ROA believes that it would be a mistake to grant PNTR to China at this time. The annual process of reviewing trade relations with China provides Congress with leverage over Chinese behavior on national security and human rights matters. Granting PNTR would deprive Congress of the opportunity to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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influence China to improve its human rights record and behave as a more responsible actor on the national security stage.

Just within the past few weeks, China has made military threats against Taiwan and threatened military action against the United States if we defend Taiwan. Just four years ago, China fired several live missiles in the Taiwan Strait, necessitating a deployment of two American carrier battle groups to the area.

A report issued last month by the CIA and FBI indicates that Beijing has increased its military spying against the United States. Less than a year ago, the Cox Committee reported that China stole classified information regarding advanced American thermonuclear weapons.

Additionally, Beijing has exported weapons of mass destruction to Iran and north Korea, in violation of treaty commitments. Finally, China's record of human rights abuses is well documented.

A recent Harris Poll revealed that fully 79% of the American people oppose giving China permanent access to U.S. markets until China meets human rights and labor standards. On this issue, Congress should respect the wisdom of the American people. Now is not the time to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China.

Sincerely,

JAYSON L. SPIEGE,
Executive Director.

NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, May 9, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: The Naval Reserve Association and the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association work together as affiliates to represent 37,000 officers and enlisted members from the Naval Reserve services. They are representative of the 89,000 Selected Reservists, the 4,500 non-pay Drilling Reservists (VTU), and the 91,000 Individual Ready Reservists (IRR), as well as the Retired Reserve community.

As a resource to the U.S. Military, our membership is concerned with our relationship with China. Decisions made today will be affecting the political-military balance in the Pacific for the next 50 years. The Peoples Republic of China may well be a rival.

Building its economy on the backs of its People, China is also willing to risk world stability. To generate hard currency, the PRC is selling weapons systems to Third World nations, including many considered rogue states in nature.

China is aggressively building its military. The PRC's ambitions include reunification by force with Taiwan, and territorial claim over the energy resources in the international waters of the South China Sea.

The process of reviewing trade relations with China each year is an opportunity for Congress to influence the behavior of China on matters of national security and human rights.

China is the largest of four surviving Communist governments in the world today. Human Rights of its citizens continue to be violated. Evidence exists of Chinese espionage within the U.S. Government and Industry. The PCR has effected political influence to manipulate U.S. policy. An annual trade review provides an element of counter balance.

Trade between nations helps maintain diplomatic dialogue and exposes a country's citizenry to outside ideas as well as prod-

ucts. Commerce with China is growing in importance for a number of U.S. Corporations. As a nation, we should continue to expand the marketplace, but not *carte blanche*. Now is not the time to offer Permanent Normal Trade Relationships (PNTR) for China.

MARSHALL HANSON,
Director of Legislation.
DENNIS F. PIERMAN,
Executive Director.

MILITARY ORDER OF
THE PURPLE HEART,
May 15, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), representing the patriotic interests of its 30,000 members and the 600,000 living recipients of the Purple Heart, is seriously concerned with the Administration's proposal to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status to the Peoples Republic of China.

The MOPH is familiar with the current series of U.S. Government reports concerning China to include: the Cox Committee Report, the Rumsfeld Commission Report, the 1999 Intelligence Community Report on Arms Proliferation, and Chairman Spence's May 2000 HASC National Security Report on China. These and other similar security assessments clearly indicate that China, as an international actor, continues to behave in a manner that is threatening to international stability and U.S. national security interests.

Given the broad consensus that has formed about this issue, to include the recent Harris Poll indicating 79% of all Americans are against granting PNTR status to China, the MOPH believes it both prudent and reasonable to delay the granting of PNTR status to China at this time. Speaking as patriots and combat wounded veterans, we believe that granting PNTR status to China would relieve them from the current pressure caused by annual Congressional review of their trade status. Clearly, Congressional review has caused China to improve its dismal human rights record and to modify to some extent its proliferation of dangerous arms on the world market. Yet these modifications must be seen as the beginning not the end.

Today, China represents the most dangerous of the emerging threats to U.S. national security. Her designs on Western Pacific dominance, her extreme belligerence towards Taiwan, and her persistent espionage and theft of U.S. advanced technologies are behaviors that must be checked before any reasonable consideration of PNTR status can be undertaken.

Many of America's combat wounded veterans sacrificed life and blood to repel Chinese aggression during the Korean Conflict. Fifty years after that war China remains an unabashedly communistic regime. It is time for China to change if she wishes to be a truly welcomed participant on the world's stage. It is also time for Congress and the Administration to reflect upon the sacrifices of its combat wounded veterans and ensure that China will not once again become our enemy. In the view of the MOPH this objective must be reached before PNTR status should be granted to China.

Yours in Patriotism,
FRANK G. WICKERSHAM III,
National Legislative Director.

WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Herndon, VA, May 9, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Cannon House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: On behalf of the membership of this Association I write to express support and appreciation of your actions, and that of several of your colleagues, in opposing Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China.

The USAWOA represents nearly 20,000 warrant officers of the Active Army, the Army Guard, and the Army Reserve. These highly-skilled men and women serve as helicopter pilots, special forces team leaders, intelligence analysts, command and control computer and communications managers, armament and equipment repair technicians, and in other technical fields critical to success of the modern battlefield. Daily, many of them are in harm's way.

From our perspective, it appears that China has done little to deserve such consideration. Of more concern is the fact that China shows few of the peaceful, democratic traits evidenced by our Nation's other major trading partners. Indeed, China appears to be striving to achieve not only economic dominance of the Pacific Rim but also a significant military advantage over her neighbors, and quite possibly, the United States.

In this instance, trade and economic considerations cannot take precedence over the safety of our Nation and that of our allies and friends. Until fundamental, lasting changes take place in China, normalization of trade relations should not take place.

Respectfully,

RAYMOND A. BELL,
Executive Director.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP FOR TURKEY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, last December I sponsored a "Dear Colleague" letter to the EU term President, Martti Ahtisaari, President of Finland, in support of Turkey as a EU candidate. Twenty-six of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle joined me in sending that message to President Ahtisaari. Thankfully, Turkey became the European Union's first candidate for full membership with a predominantly Muslim population later in the month.

I strongly supported Turkey's EU membership became membership would anchor a country who's population has long aspired to be part of Europe. It would also further strengthen the Turkish-U.S. relationship, and help foster a stronger Turkish-Greek relationship.

Turkey is a secular Muslim country with a democratic tradition, whose recent presidential election underscores those ideals. Ahmet Sezer, former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, who has devoted his career to democratic principles, the rule of law, and freedom of expression received broad parliamentary support to become Turkey's tenth President. This development was favorably received in European capitals, the European press, and within Turkey.