Now China has detained a second American scholar. This hardly seems like a nation that is becoming more cooperative and willing to make permanent normal trade relations with the United States. China's already poor human rights record sadly worsened last year. I am pleased that the new administration has recognized that fact and has urged the United Nations to address the widespread oppression in China. The United States U.N. Ambassador stated that the U.S. "should not be silent when those who call for democratic government or more cultural preservation and religious freedom in Tibet and elsewhere in China are suppressed or when advocates of labor rights are thrown in jail." But sadly, this may never take place.

Mr. Speaker, every year since the 1989 killings of students and around Tiananmen Square, China's delegation has introduced a "no-action motion," therefore successfully stopping all attempts to examine its human rights record. It would seem naive to ask why.

All of this would seem troublesome enough, but now we face even larger concerns. On Sunday of this week, a U.S. Navy plane and a Chinese fighter jet collided over the South China Sea causing the American craft to make an emergency landing in China and the Chinese plane to crash. Officials from China are claiming that the bulkier, clumsier American plane that is roughly the size of a Boeing 737 rammed the light, agile Chinese fighter jet. This would again seem to contradict our view of common sense. Many U.S. experts agree that the incident was most likely caused by an accident on the part of the Chinese.

Sensitivity to the situation will ultimately result from the Chinese handling of the American EP-3 and its crew of 24. It is a reconnaissance aircraft, so it would seem likely that the Chinese military experts would want to board the aircraft to assess what is there, and I understand this morning that diplomats are meeting with the crew.

U.S. officials state that the Chinese generally intercept one out of every three U.S. patrol flights. Recently, concern has been raised with the Chinese Government regarding the fact that Chinese pilots have "become more aggressive." Now, according to Admiral Dennis Blair, Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, the U.S. has protested the "pattern of increasingly unsafe behavior," but "did not get a satisfactory response." It is presumed that all 24 crew members are safe, but there is yet to be a direct contact between the crew and American officials. American officials say they are hoping to get in to talk to the crew.

Navy officials also claim that last week a confrontation occurred between a Chinese warship and a Navy surveillance ship in international waters. The officials describe the incident as threatening.

Other examples showing cracks within our forged relationship with China also bear noting, such as China's involvement with Pakistan's nuclear bomb program and their recent questionable involvement in Iraq, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that our relationship with China needs to be carefully reevaluated. Since PNTR, we have seen aggressive behavior on their part. Our prayers are with the 24 crew members, and I am hopeful that a speedy resolution will occur. I look to the Bush administration to move forward appropriately with China.
and on. These are simple things. They are things we could be doing, I say to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my wide-reaching package as a beginning of an indication that the Federal Government cares and will work in partnership with communities and concerned citizens and parents and kids to resolve this problem.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2001 NCAA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERMOLT). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) is recognized to respond to a morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, the famous sports writer Grantland Rice once wrote these words: “Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the four horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are known as famine, pestilence, destruction and death.”

These famous words name the four horsemen with the University of Notre Dame football team. With the women’s national championship win, we have at least four new names in Irish legend and in “Hoosier Hysteria.” They are Ratay and Ivey, Riley and Siemon, players that fought with tenacity and heart to come back from a 16-point deficit against the defending champs, the University of Connecticut, in a semifinal game and win by 15 points. They are the team that came back from 12 points down in the national championship game against the respected intrastate rivals, the Purdue Boilermakers with all-American Katie Douglas, and won the national championship by 2 points Sunday night.

I have to say to my colleagues in the House of Representatives, this was a flat-out exciting game that was one of the best national championships fought between men or women’s games in the history of national basketball tournaments. This was a game that was exciting to watch in person or in one’s living rooms for men and women and boys and girls across the country, to see Ruth Riley, the all-American star for the University of Notre Dame, score 28 points, rip down 13 rebounds and block 7 shots, all-American standards by any definition.

When we talk about high-caliber standards, nobody sets them better than the coach, Muffet McGraw, who has been at the helm of the University of Notre Dame for 14 years. This past year, she won three coach of the year awards, the Naismith Award, the Associated Press Award, and the WBCA National Coach of the Year Award, for her stellar coaching performance, making the 34 wins and 2 losses season. She did not do it by herself. Coach Owens, Coach McGuff, Coach Washington all helped her and these great teammates to win the national championship.

They had a lot of talent on this stellar team, not just the four names that I mentioned that go down in Irish lore, but the entire team dedicated to high academic standards and playing their hearts out on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by recognizing their outstanding season. I was privileged enough to attend their very first practice on October 15 and talk to the team and try to encourage them on to have a successful season. Those are high standards that we live up to in Indiana, where we have the legend of Larry Bird, where we have high schools that attract 12,000 people for great games at the high-school level, and where tiny, small, little Milan High School won the State championship in 1954, creating the legendary Hoosiers movie. We now have the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish 2001 national champions to enter into the lore, the legend, and the “Hoosier Hysteria.” Congratulations. We are proud of you. Congratulations to the continuing ascendancy of women’s basketball in America.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the University of Notre Dame Women’s Basketball Team. The Fighting Irish claimed the 2001 NCAA Women’s Basketball National Championship on April 1 in St. Louis, Missouri against intrastate rival, the Purdue University Boilermakers, in a classic Hoosier contest that will be long remembered as one of the best championship games in history.

By winning the national championship on Sunday, the Fighting Irish provided a fitting end to the most successful season in the illustrious collegiate careers with a victory tone for this season. They were able to end the illustrious collegiate careers with a victory and a championship. Ruth Riley excelled as a student-athlete. She became Notre Dame’s first player to win the Naismith Women’s College Player of the Year and she was a unanimous Associated Press first team All-American, Rice became the first person in Big East Conference history to sweep all three of the major awards: Big East Player of the Year, Big East Defensive Player of the Year, and the highest of academic standards. Coach McGraw’s assistant coaches, Carol Owens, Kevin McGuff, and Coquese Washington (Notre Dame ’92) must also be honored for their dedication to the team and to Notre Dame.

Coach McGraw’s expectation to win with class was put into practice by this year’s seniors. The strong character and the fierce determination of Riley, Ivey, Kelley Siemon, Meaghan Leahey, and Imani Dunbar set the tone for this season. They were able to end the illustrious collegiate careers with a victory and a championship.

Ruth Riley excelled as a student-athlete. She became Notre Dame’s first player to win the Naismith Women’s College Player of the Year and she was an unanimous Associated Press first team All-American, Rice became the first person in Big East Conference history to sweep all three of the major awards: Big East Player of the Year, Big East Defensive Player of the Year, and the Big East Scholar Athlete of the Year. The Macy, Indiana native has caged the Irish a place in Indiana’s rich basketball lore, known as “Hoosier Hysteria.”

Niele Ivey was considered the heart and soul of the team in her determination to lead the Irish to the Final Four in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. Ivey provided valuable focus during the Midwest Regional games against Alcorn State, Michigan, Utah, and Vanderbilt. A consummate champion, Ivey earned Associated Press All-American honors. She was also the recipient of the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award presented to the national outstanding female collegiate 5-feet-8 and under who excelled athletically and academically.

Kelley Siemon teamed with Riley to make a formidable front court. Siemon won the Big...