

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-
SECESSION LAW**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong concern over China's proposed anti-secession law that it plans to include in its March 2005 agenda of the National People's Congress.

This anti-secession law is highly provocative, and needlessly moves cross-strait relations away from dialogue and possibly towards open confrontation. I am particularly concerned about the law's assumption that China and Taiwan are now unified and how the law sets up a legal framework for retaliation if Taiwan declares independence. Under this proposed law, China could claim the legal right to push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst possible scenario.

The 23 million people of Taiwan are understandably very upset over this proposed law. As we all know, the people of Taiwan live in a full-fledged democracy and enjoy the highest standards of freedom and human rights. We remember a similar reaction and back-lash by the citizens of Hong Kong when they learned about the enactment of the Article 23 anti-secession laws. While claiming the theory of "one country, two systems," it appears that Beijing's implementation of its theory may result in the blocking of democratic reforms and the undermining of autonomous self-governance.

Certainly any country has the right to enact their own domestic laws, but I do not feel that any country should use their domestic laws as justification to suppress or intimidate democracy abroad. While the President spoke very eloquently of promoting democracy and liberty abroad in his Inaugural Address, we must remember that our country still has a solemn duty to defend democracy and liberty.

I hope the Chinese leaders will be wise to not adopt this anti-secession law in March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this provocative law. Inaction by the world will likely send a wrong signal to Beijing.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
GRANTS PASS ROTARY AND THE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commit-

ment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our Nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

The Grants Pass Rotary, located in Oregon's beautiful Rogue Valley, is one such club. Founded in 1924, Grants Pass Rotary has celebrated over 80 years of dedication and service to the local community as well as the world abroad. Under the recent leadership of Georgette Brown, and her predecessors before her, the club has done a great deal for the area.

Throughout the years, Grants Pass Rotarians have conducted projects with their dedication, time, energy, and resources. These projects have covered a variety of areas: recognition of students in middle and elementary school excelling in their academic endeavors; the initial funding and continued support of The Riverside West All Sports Park, a fabulous facility for all Grants Pass citizens and visitors to enjoy; the development of Morrison Centennial Park; the Grants Pass Rotary Invitational Track Meet held at Grants Pass High School, an event for students throughout the state and northern California; and events for foreign exchange students visiting America.

Internationally, the commitment of Rotarians is as strong. With humanitarian and educational programs for communities in all parts of the globe, Rotary Clubs have made a difference in everything from disaster relief to the advancement of democracy. A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to

meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Grants Pass Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

THE ATROCITIES IN DARFUR

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the heinous acts in Darfur. To date, almost two and a half million people in Darfur and Chad have been affected by the atrocities and as many as 300,000 individuals have been killed.

I commend the efforts already made to assist the people of Darfur. Millions in aid have been donated worldwide, including \$550 million from the United States. Peacekeeping efforts are underway from the African Union, the United Nations, and other organizations. I applaud the Sudanese for their commendable efforts to end the violence by signing the Peace Agreement in January. Unfortunately it is not enough.

Although the humanitarian aid and the peace agreement are steps in the right direction, it has not prevented people from being killed, raped, torn from their homes and left to starve. People are already fighting over water due to drought and a food shortage is imminent.

The international community must take stronger action. I call upon the United Nations Security Council to pass a meaningful resolution in the coming weeks, a resolution that will be consequential in the lives of the people of Darfur. The UN has already described the situation in Darfur as "the worst humanitarian and human rights situation in the world." It is time they treat the situation as such.