

In the Senate of the United States,

March 21, 1996.

Resolved, That the resolution from the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 148) entitled “Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to military stability in the Taiwan Strait and the United States should assist in defending the Republic of China (also known as Taiwan) in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People’s Republic of China.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS

Strike out all after the resolving clause, and insert:

1 *That it is the sense of the Congress—*

2 *(1) to deplore the missile tests and military exer-*
3 *cises that the People’s Republic of China is conduct-*
4 *ing from March 8 through March 25, 1996, and view*
5 *such tests and exercises as potentially serious threats*
6 *to the peace, security, and stability of Taiwan and*
7 *not in the spirit of the three United States-China*
8 *Joint Communiqués;*

9 *(2) to urge the Government of the People’s Re-*
10 *public of China to cease its bellicose actions directed*

1 *at Taiwan and enter instead into meaningful dia-*
2 *logue with the Government of Taiwan at the highest*
3 *levels, such as through the Straits Exchange Founda-*
4 *tion in Taiwan and the Association for Relations*
5 *Across the Taiwan Strait in Beijing, with an eye to-*
6 *wards decreasing tensions and resolving the issue of*
7 *the future of Taiwan;*

8 *(3) that the President should, consistent with sec-*
9 *tion 3(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22*
10 *U.S.C. 3302(c)), immediately consult with Congress*
11 *on an appropriate United States response to the tests*
12 *and exercises should the tests or exercises pose an ac-*
13 *tual threat to the peace, security, and stability of Tai-*
14 *wan;*

15 *(4) that the President should, consistent with the*
16 *Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3301 et*
17 *seq.), reexamine the nature and quantity of defense*
18 *articles and services that may be necessary to enable*
19 *Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capabil-*
20 *ity in light of the heightened military threat; and*

21 *(5) that the Government of Taiwan should re-*
22 *main committed to the peaceful resolution of its fu-*
23 *ture relations with the People's Republic of China by*
24 *mutual decision.*

Strike out the preamble, and insert:

Whereas the People's Republic of China, in a clear attempt to intimidate the people and Government of Taiwan, has over the past 9 months conducted a series of military exercises, including missile tests, within alarmingly close proximity to Taiwan;

Whereas from March 8 through March 15, 1996, the People's Republic of China conducted a series of missile tests within 25 to 35 miles of the 2 principal northern and southern ports of Taiwan, Kaohsiung and Keelung;

Whereas on March 12, 1996, the People's Republic of China began an 8-day, live-ammunition, joint sea-and-air military exercise in a 2,390 square mile area in the southern Taiwan Strait;

Whereas on March 18, 1996, the People's Republic of China began a 7-day, live-ammunition, joint sea-and-air military exercise between Taiwan's islands of Matsu and Wuchu;

Whereas these tests and exercises are a clear escalation of the attempts by the People's Republic of China to intimidate Taiwan and influence the outcome of the upcoming democratic presidential election in Taiwan;

Whereas through the administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush, the United States has adhered to a "One China" policy and, during the administration of President Clinton, the United States continues to adhere to the "One China" policy based on the Shanghai Communiqué of February 27, 1972, the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the United States of America

and the People's Republic of China of January 1, 1979, and the United States-China Joint Communiqué of August 17, 1982;

Whereas through the administrations of Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Bush, the United States has adhered to the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) as the basis for continuing commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan and, during the administration of President Clinton, the United States continues to adhere to the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979;

Whereas relations between the United States and the Peoples' Republic of China rest upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be settled solely by peaceful means;

Whereas the strong interest of the United States in the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question is one of the central premises of the three United States-China Joint Communiqués and was codified in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 states that peace and stability in the western Pacific “are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern”;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 states that the United States considers “any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts, or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States”;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 directs the President to “inform Congress promptly of any threat to the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan and any danger to the interests of the United States arising therefrom”;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 further directs that “the President and the Congress shall determine, in accordance with constitutional process, appropriate action by the United States in response to any such danger”;

Whereas the United States, the People’s Republic of China, and the Government of Taiwan have each previously expressed their commitment to the resolution of the Taiwan question through peaceful means; and

Whereas these missile tests and military exercises, and the accompanying statements made by the Government of the People’s Republic of China, call into serious question the commitment of China to the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question: Now, therefore, be it.

Amend the title so as to read: “Expressing the sense of Congress regarding missile tests and military exercises by the People’s Republic of China.”.

Attest:

Secretary.

104TH CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

H. CON. RES. 148

AMENDMENTS