

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 967

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To prohibit the use of United States funds to provide for the participation of certain Chinese officials in international conferences, programs, and activities and to provide that certain Chinese officials shall be ineligible to receive visas and excluded from admission to the United States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3   **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4       It is the sense of the Congress that the President  
5   should make freedom of religion one of the major objec-  
6   tives of United States foreign policy with respect to China.

7       As part of this policy, the Department of State should  
8   raise in every relevant bilateral and multilateral forum the  
9   issue of individuals imprisoned, detained, confined, or oth-  
10   erwise harassed by the Chinese Government on religious  
11   grounds. In its communications with the Chinese Govern-  
12   ment, the Department of State should provide specific  
13   names of individuals of concern and request a complete  
14   and timely response from the Chinese Government regard-  
15   ing the individuals' whereabouts and condition, the  
16   charges against them, and sentence imposed. The goal of  
17   these official communications should be the expeditious re-  
18   lease of all religious prisoners in China and Tibet and the  
19   end of the Chinese Government's policy and practice of  
20   harassing and repressing religious believers.

**1 SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE PARTICI-**

**2 PATION OF CERTAIN CHINESE OFFICIALS IN**

**3 CONFERENCES, EXCHANGES, PROGRAMS,**

**4 AND ACTIVITIES.**

5       (a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
6 sion of law, for fiscal years after fiscal year 1997, no funds  
7 appropriated or otherwise made available for the Depart-  
8 ment of State, the United States Information Agency, and  
9 the United States Agency for International Development  
10 may be used for the purpose of providing travel expenses  
11 and per diem for the participation of nationals of the Peo-  
12 ple's Republic of China described in paragraphs (1) and  
13 (2) in conferences, exchanges, programs, and activities:

14                   (1) The head or political secretary of any of the  
15               following Chinese Government-created or approved  
16               organizations:

## 17 (A) The Chinese Buddhist Association.

18 (B) The Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.  
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(C) The National Congress of Catholic  
Representatives.

22 (D) The Chinese Catholic Bishops' Con-  
23 ference.

<sup>26</sup> (F) The China Christian Council.

## (G) The Chinese Taoist Association.

(H) The Chinese Islamic Association.

(A) Formulating, drafting, or implementing repressive religious policies.

(B) Imprisoning, detaining, or harassing individuals on religious grounds.

(C) Promoting or participating in policies or practices which hinder religious activities or the free expression of religious beliefs.

**14 (b) CERTIFICATION.—**

14       (c) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL  
15 COMMITTEES.—For purposes of this section the term “ap-  
16 propriate congressional committees” means the Commit-  
17 tee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee  
18 on International Relations of the House of Representa-  
19 tives.

**20 SEC. 3. CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
21 OF CHINA INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VISAS  
22 AND EXCLUDED FROM ADMISSION.**

23 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
24 vision of law, any national of the People's Republic of  
25 China described in section 2(a)(2) (except the head of

1 state, the head of government, and cabinet level ministers)  
2 shall be ineligible to receive visas and shall be excluded  
3 from admission into the United States.

4 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the require-  
5 ment in subsection (a) with respect to an individual de-  
6 scribed in such subsection if the President—

7 (1) determines that it is vital to the national in-  
8 terest to do so; and

9 (2) provides written notification to the appro-  
10 priate congressional committees (as defined in sec-  
11 tion 2(c)) containing a justification for the waiver.

12 **SEC. 4. SUNSET PROVISION.**

13 Sections 2 and 3 shall cease to have effect 4 years  
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives November 6,  
1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

*Clerk.*