

106TH CONGRESS
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H. CON. RES. 53

Concerning the Taiwan Relations Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 1999

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. COX, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BROWN OF OHIO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. TANCREDO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the Taiwan Relations Act.

Whereas April 10, 1999, will mark the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, codifying in public law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act was advanced by Congress and supported by the executive branch as a critical tool to preserve and promote ties the American people have enjoyed with the people of Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979;

Whereas when the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted in 1979, it affirmed that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China refuse to renounce the use of force against democratic Taiwan;

Whereas the recent accelerated defense modernization and weapons procurement efforts by the People's Republic of China, as documented in the February 1, 1999, report by the Secretary of Defense on "The Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait", could threaten cross-strait stability and United States interests in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act provides explicit guarantees that the United States will make available defense articles and services necessary in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas section 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act requires timely reviews by United States military authorities of Taiwan's defense needs in connection with recommendations to the President and the Congress;

Whereas Congress and the President are committed by Article 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act to determine the nature and quantity of Taiwan's legitimate self-defense needs;

Whereas the Republic of China on Taiwan routinely makes informal requests to United States Government officials, which are discouraged or declined informally by Department of Defense personnel;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to reject any attempt to curb the provision by the United States of defense articles and services legitimately needed for Taiwan's self-defense;

Whereas it is the current executive branch policy to bar most high-level dialogue regarding regional stability with senior military officials Taiwan;

Whereas it is the policy set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act to promote extensive commercial relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan and such commercial relations would be further enhanced by Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the human rights provisions in the Taiwan Relations Act helped stimulate the democratization of Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan today is a full-fledged multi-party democracy fully respecting human rights and civil liberties and serves as a successful model of democratic reform for the People's Republic of China;

Whereas it is United States policy to promote extensive cultural relations with Taiwan, ties that should be further encouraged and expanded;

Whereas any attempt to determine Taiwan's future by other peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes would be considered a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of grave concern to the United States;

Whereas in the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which encourages the future of democratic Taiwan to be determined by peaceful means, the government of Taiwan has engaged the People's Republic of China in a cross-strait

dialogue by advocating that peaceful renification be based on a democratic system of government being implemented on the mainland; and

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute on Taiwan (AIT) to carry out the programs, transactions, and other relations conducted or carried out by the United States Government with respect to Taiwan and AIT should be recognized for the successful role it has played in sustaining and enhancing United States relations with Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should reaffirm its com-
4 mitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and the spe-
5 cific guarantees of provision of legitimate defense ar-
6 ticles to Taiwan contained therein;

7 (2) the Congress has grave concerns over Chi-
8 na's growing arsenal of nuclear and conventionally
9 armed ballistic missiles, the movement of those mis-
10 siles into a closer geographic proximity to Taiwan,
11 and the effect that buildup may have on stability in
12 the Taiwan Strait;

13 (3) the President should direct all appropriate
14 officials to raise with officials from the People's Re-
15 public of China our grave concern over China's
16 growing arsenal of conventionally armed ballistic
17 missiles, the movement of those missiles into a closer

1 geographic proximity to Taiwan, and the effect that
2 buildup may have on stability in the Taiwan Strait;

3 (4) the President should seek from leaders of
4 the People's Republic of China a public renunciation
5 of any use of force, or threat to use force, against
6 Taiwan;

7 (5) the President should provide annually a re-
8 port detailing the military balance on both sides of
9 the Taiwan Strait, including the impact of procure-
10 ment and modernization programs underway;

11 (6) the Secretary of Defense should inform the
12 appropriate committees of Congress when officials
13 from Taiwan seek to purchase defense articles for
14 self-defense;

15 (7) the United States Government should en-
16 courage a high-level dialogue with officials from Tai-
17 wan and other United States allies in East Asia, in-
18 cluding Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, on
19 the best means to ensure stability, peace, freedom of
20 the seas, and deterrence in East Asia;

21 (8) the President should encourage progress in
22 the cross-strait dialogue between democratic Taiwan
23 and the People's Republic of China based on Beijing
24 renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and real

1 progress in a democratic system of government
2 being implemented on the mainland; and

3 (9) it should be United States policy in con-
4 formity with Article 4(d) of the Taiwan Relations
5 Act to publicly support Taiwan's admission to the
6 World Trade Organization forthwith on its own mer-
7 its and encourage others to adopt similar policies,
8 without making such admission conditional on the
9 previous or simultaneous admission of the People's
10 Republic of China to the World Trade Organization.

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