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H. CON. RES. 56

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 1999

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of 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 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 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 policy set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act to promote extensive commercial relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan and

such commercial relations would be further enhanced by Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization;

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 than 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, Taiwan has engaged the People's Republic of China in a cross-Strait dialogue by advocating that peaceful reunification 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),*

3 That it is the sense of the Congress that—

1 (1) the United States should reaffirm its com-
2 mitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and the spe-
3 cific guarantees for the provision of legitimate de-
4 fense articles to Taiwan contained therein;

5 (2) the Congress has grave concerns over Chi-
6 na's military modernization and weapons procure-
7 ment program, especially ballistic missile capability
8 and deployment that seem particularly directed to-
9 ward threatening Taiwan;

10 (3) the President should direct all appropriate
11 officials to raise these grave concerns about new
12 Chinese military threats to Taiwan with officials
13 from the People's Republic of China;

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

18 (5) the President should provide annually a re-
19 port detailing the military balance on both sides of
20 the Taiwan Strait, including the impact of procure-
21 ment and modernization programs;

22 (6) the executive branch should inform the ap-
23 propriate committees of Congress when officials
24 from Taiwan seek to purchase defense articles for
25 self-defense;

1 (7) the United States Government should en-
2 courage a regional high-level dialogue on the best
3 means to ensure stability, peace, and freedom of the
4 seas in East Asia;

5 (8) the President should encourage further dia-
6 logue between democratic Taiwan and the People's
7 Republic of China; and

8 (9) it should be United States policy in con-
9 formity with Article 4(d) of the Taiwan Relations
10 Act to publicly support Taiwan's admission to the
11 World Trade Organization as soon as possible on its
12 own merits and encourage others to adopt similar
13 policies.

 Passed the House of Representatives March 23,
1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.