

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 38

Recognizing the founding of the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2001

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. LEAHY)
submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the founding of the Alliance for Reform and
Democracy in Asia, and for other purposes.

Whereas authoritarian governments in Asia deny their citizens basic freedoms of belief, speech, and association, and engage in intimidation and other human rights abuses designed to ensure that political opposition to those governments is nonexistent or weak;

Whereas established and emerging democracies in Asia offer hope and inspiration to democrats and reformers across the region;

Whereas democracy activists in Asia are firmly committed to advancing democracy, human rights, good governance, and the rule of law, often at great personal risk;

Whereas leading democrats and reformers created the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia (referred to in this Resolution as ARDA) in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 8, 2000, as a broad-based, nonviolent movement to encourage and accelerate the march of democracy in Asia;

Whereas the members of the ARDA have rejected as false any definition of “Asian values” that does not include respect for human rights, democracy, freedom, and good governance;

Whereas the members of the ARDA have pledged in a declaration of unity to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Asia;

Whereas the members of the ARDA support each other through words and deeds in times of political crisis;

Whereas the members of the ARDA have frequently met to reaffirm their collective commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, most recently in Taiwan and Mongolia; and

Whereas Congress recognizes that the establishment of democratic governments in Asia is vital to the United States national security interests: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes and commends the members of
4 the Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia for
5 joining forces in a common struggle for freedom and
6 the rule of law;

1 (2) calls upon governments in Asia to heed the
2 calls by the ARDA for political and legal reforms,
3 and to engage members of the ARDA in dialog; and
4 (3) calls for an immediate end to human rights
5 violations committed against Asian democracy activ-
6 ists and reformers.

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