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S. CON. RES. 48

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits to the United States by democratically-elected officials of Taiwan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits to the United States by democratically-elected officials of Taiwan.

Whereas, for over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;

Whereas Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic allies of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas it is United States policy to support and strengthen democracy around the world;

Whereas, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a remarkable transition to a full-fledged democracy with a vibrant economy and a vigorous multi-party polit-

ical system that respects human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas, in spite of its praise for democracy in Taiwan, the United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, DC;

Whereas these restrictions deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas whenever high-level visitors from Taiwan, including the President, seek to come to the United States, their request results in a period of complex, lengthy, and humiliating negotiations;

Whereas lifting these restrictions will help bring a friend and ally of the United States out of its isolation, which will be beneficial to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas, in consideration of the major economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States and Taiwan, it is to the benefit of the United States for United States officials to meet and communicate directly with the democratically-elected officials of Taiwan;

Whereas since the Taiwan Strait is one of the world's flashpoints in terms of global security, it is essential that United States policymakers directly communicate with the leaders of Taiwan; and

Whereas section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note)

provides that the President or other high-level officials of Taiwan may visit the United States, including Washington, DC, at any time to discuss a variety of important issues: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) restrictions on visits to the United States by
4 high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan,
5 including the democratically-elected President of
6 Taiwan, should be lifted;

7 (2) the United States should allow direct high-
8 level exchanges at the Cabinet level with the Govern-
9 ment of Taiwan, in order to strengthen a policy dia-
10 logue with Taiwan; and

11 (3) it is in the interest of the United States to
12 strengthen links between the United States and the
13 democratically-elected officials of Taiwan and dem-
14 onstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-
15 Pacific region.

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