

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN
HONG KONG

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, a recent Washington Post article outlined Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten's steadfast determination and commitment to democracy in Hong Kong. In the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre, in October, 1992, newly arrived Governor Patten unveiled proposals to expand the voting franchise in Hong Kong and broaden the scope of democracy. Governor Patten's proposals reflected a growing desire on the part of the colonial government and the people of Hong Kong to erect safeguards against the totalitarian mainland—Communist China. I commended Governor Patten then, as I do today. Governor Patten's reforms are consistent with general U.S. goals of promoting human rights and political freedom.

Mr. Speaker, last month Hong Kong voters demonstrated their devotion to democracy by repudiating most legislative candidates allied with Beijing and handing an overwhelming victory to advocates of democracy, led by Martin Lee, who avows to take a tougher stance in dealing with the mainland. This vote reinforced Hong Kong voters' commitment to Governor Patten's proposals. Britain's Minister for Hong Kong Jeremy Hanley commented that "more voters than ever before have played their part in an atmosphere of calm moderation to elect the most broadly-based, fairly elected Legislative Council in Hong Kong's history. As a result, the people of Hong Kong will have a fully represented legislature, equipped to help shape the next chapter in Hong Kong's history."

But how will this next chapter read when China has vowed to dismantle the Hong Kong legislature and continues to try to destroy any hope of a free democratic future? Despite international pressure, China continues to violate the human rights of its own citizens. As the date for the return of Hong Kong fast approaches, there are signs that Beijing's policy of intimidation and fear may be working. According to recent polls, public support for Governor Patten is at an all time low. Former British Ambassador to Beijing, Percy Cradock, said that Patten "is being rapidly marginalized as the Chinese and British Governments work together to reduce the damage his reforms have done." On the contrary, Governor Patten has done tremendous good in the last 3 years, and he deserves steadfast support from the United States and the rest of the world community, including Britain. Any damage resulting from Hong Kong's making democratic reforms has been caused by Beijing's refusal to accept them and London's fear of supporting them.

Hong Kong is the world's best example of the prosperity that results from a strong and vibrant free enterprise system existing under the rule of law. As 1997 approaches the United States must stand with those in Hong Kong, like Governor Patten and Martin Lee, who are rightly unwilling to capitulate to Beijing's effort to strip the citizens of Hong Kong of their democratic rights and freedom.

SENSE OF HOUSE RELATING TO
DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED
FORCES IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 1995

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, after three and a half years of bloody conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, long anticipated peace negotiations will begin today at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. I applaud the efforts of President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the participating leaders from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, for these negotiations may be the last best chance for peace in this war torn part of our world.

It is unfortunate that Congress tarnished the optimistic spirit of this summit on Monday by considering H. Res. 247. Mr. Speaker, this resolution was a deliberate partisan attempt to undermine the President and call into question his credibility on matters relating to foreign affairs. With hardly an hour's debate and no hearings, on the eve of this historic conference, Congress has already tied one hand behind the President's back, and jeopardized the success of these talks.

I was the only member in the Tennessee delegation to vote against this resolution, which we only learned would be considered last Friday. Taking into account the short notice before voting on this legislation, lack of intelligent debate and investigation, and the premature timing for such an edict from Congress, I felt clearly this was not the right message to send to our President and the Balkan negotiators.

This vote was not the last vote regarding United States policy for deploying Armed Forces in Bosnia. Whatever proposals or agreements result from the Dayton peace talks, which involve the lives of U.S. servicemen, they will have to pass before the judgment of this body. This is inherent in our beloved Constitution. However, I pray this blatant, political attempt to embarrass the President, has not imperiled a peaceful resolution to this grisly conflict.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM
PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Travel and Tourism, I have introduced legislation today to strengthen our tourism promotion efforts in the international travel market.

Earlier this week, the White House conference endorsed a new plan to bring together the resources of the private sector and the resources of the Government in a public-private partnership to improve the promotion of international travel and tourism to the United States. This partnership would be a successor to the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration.

The partnership concept has been developed jointly by a group of industry leaders and officials of the Commerce Department.

A group of us has been working for weeks to prepare this legislation. We took the first step on September 28 when I held a hearing in my Trade Subcommittee. We used that hearing to focus congressional attention on the problems we are having in the international travel market.

Let me review the findings from our hearing. International tourism is now a \$300 billion market. The world market has tripled in the last 10 years and it will double again in the next decade. But our market share is dropping. Two years ago, the United States had 19 percent of the international tourism market.

In 1993, nearly 48 million visitors came to the United States and spent \$74 billion while in our country. In the past 2 years, the total world market has grown 10 percent, but our share dropped to less than 17 percent.

This year, we will have 2 million fewer visitors from abroad than 2 years ago. This drop has cost us 177,000 jobs which should have gone to American workers. But those jobs went to our competitors in other countries.

What's worse, this is not a temporary trend. If we stand still in our promotion efforts, our share of the world market will keep dropping. In 5 years, we will have less than 14 percent of the world travel market.

The question is: How can we turn this around? The White House conference has urged a stronger promotion effort in the overseas market. This is where we are falling down. The United States ranks 33d in tourism promotion, lower than Tunisia and Malaysia. We are being outclassed and outgunned. But, how do we get a stronger promotion program in a time of decreasing Federal spending?

The answer is the public-private partnership, which my legislation would set up. The idea is to combine together the resources and creative talents of the American tourism industry with the overseas presence and data-bases of the U.S. Government.

First, we would set up a national tourism board. This board would be comprised of industry leaders, State and regional tourism directors, and Federal officials. The board would devise a comprehensive strategy to increase our share of the world market. The board would advise the President, Congress, and the industry itself on specific steps to take.

To coordinate a new promotion campaign, we would set up a nonprofit corporation—the national tourism organization. This organization would be directed by the private sector. We would combine the advertising talents of the private sector with market data and staff help from the Federal Government. The new organization would design tourism promotion advertisements aimed at the international market and it would carry out a new and more vigorous advertising campaign. The campaign would be coordinated with the advertising that the industry already does on its own.

Initially, this new organization will get operational help from both the industry and the U.S. Government. But one of the first jobs for the tourism board will be to devise a long-term plan for financing this operation.

When this plan is up and running, we would have a two-fold campaign: First, to attract more international visitors to the United States, and second to steer them toward American companies for every part of their trip.