

still not allowed to be a part of vital international organizations. Congress took the first step today in bringing about a change in this policy.

Without question their economic status and legal system more than qualify them for membership in the World Trade Organization, but the People's Republic of China, which is not nearly as economically stable as the Republic of China, believes it must be admitted first. The 21 million people of Taiwan certainly deserve representation in the United Nations, but again, the People's Republic of China will not allow it. Given America's close relationship with the People's Republic of China, it would appear as though our friendship with Taiwan has been displaced by our concern about the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has begun to take action and today addressed the issue of Taiwan's involvement in the international community with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 212. This resolution "urges the Council and Member States to support Taiwan's attempts to secure better representation than it currently enjoys in international organizations * * *" and " * * * ask the United Nations to investigate the possibility of setting up a United Nations working group to study the scope for Taiwan to participate in the activities of bodies answerable to the United Nations General Assembly * * *."

At the same token, I understand the need to be aware of the actions and decisions of the People's Republic of China. Obviously the 1.5 billion people living under People's Republic of China rule are important. However, I think it is vital that the United States work to see our friends in the Republic of China are duly recognized for their achievements and to make sure that Republic of China's borders are secure. On October 10, when the Republic of China celebrates their 85th anniversary, we here in Congress should remember to congratulate our friends on Taiwan and assure them that our relationship will remain strong. House Concurrent Resolution 212 is one step in the right direction, but more needs to be done.

The October 10 celebration marks the continuance of a longstanding friendship between our two countries, as well as the founding of a nation. Again, I congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of its national day.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the 85th national day of the founding of the Republic of China. Not only for its rapid implementation of democratic policies and reforms but also for its responsiveness to trade imbalances between our two countries should the Republic of China on Taiwan be honored and congratulated on this historic occasion.

One proper way to celebrate the Republic of China's national day is for us to recognize Taiwan's campaign to reenter the United Nations and other international organizations. There really is no reason to deny the Republic of China membership in the United Nations. In my mind, Taiwan's membership in the United Nations is in total conformity with the U.N. principle of universality; will definitely contribute to peace and stability in East Asia and will serve the interests of the United States. Today, we have taken a small step in advancing this campaign by the House adopting House Concurrent Resolution 212, which supports Taiwan's entry into international organizations.

In commemoration of Taiwan's 85th national day, I extend greetings and best wishes to President Lee Teng-Hui, foreign representative, Ambassador Jason Hu. May Taiwan continue to prosper and to one day soon be welcomed back into the community of nations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further requests for time on this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUNDERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 212, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended; and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the measure just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REGARDING PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 515) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the persecution of Christians worldwide, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 515

Whereas oppression and persecution of religious believers around the world has emerged as one of the most compelling human rights issues of the day, in particular the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians persists at alarming levels, and this is an affront to the international moral community and to all people of conscience;

Whereas in many places throughout the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a "religious apartheid" that subjects them to inhumane humiliating treatment, and are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, and killed;

Whereas in some countries proselytizing is forbidden and extremist elements persist unchecked by governments in their campaigns to eradicate Christians and force conversions through intimidation, rape, and forced marriage;

Whereas in several Islamic countries conversion to Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by death and on Islamic court in Kuwait has denied religious liberty to a convert from Islam to Christianity;

Whereas the militant Muslim Government of Sudan is waging what its leader has described as a jihad (religious war) against

Christian and other non-Muslim citizens in the southern part of the country, enforcing Shari'a (Islamic law) against non-Muslim African Sudanese, torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1,000,000 people, and enslaving tens of thousands of women and children;

Whereas today in Sudan a human being can be bought for as little as \$15;

Whereas Christians in China are now experiencing the worst persecution since the 1970's;

Whereas there are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in some form of detention in China than in any other country;

Whereas both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China;

Whereas in recent months, in separate incidents, 3 Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply because of their religious activities;

Whereas 3 Christian leaders in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community;

Whereas severe persecution of Christians is also occurring in North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Indonesia (including East Timor), and in certain countries in the Middle East, to name only a few;

Whereas religious liberty is a universal right explicitly recognized in numerous international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse them the right to meet in private for prayer", declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation, not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly", stating that this is for human beings "their reason for living";

Whereas the National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a Statement of Conscience and Call to Action, subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America, in which they pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and the last Sunday in September each year thereafter, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians, and that day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn and a haven for the oppressed, and has guaranteed freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas historically the United States has in many instances failed to intervene successfully to stop anti-Christian and other religious persecution; and

Whereas in the past the United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious believers and the United