

The resolution conveys the sense of the Senate that the United States expresses its sympathy for those killed at Tiananmen Square and commends the Chinese citizens who have continued over the last decade to peacefully advocate greater democracy and respect for human rights in China. This resolution further calls on the authorities in China to reevaluate the events of June 1989, establish a commission to investigate what happened, release those still being held in connection with the democratic rally, and cease current harassment and detention of those still seeking democratic reform. This resolution makes a simple, clear request, one that the Senate has made many times before—free the Tiananmen Square democratic protesters and accept the legitimacy of the voices that still cry out for peaceful democratic reform in China.

Mr. President, first I would like this opportunity to express my deep regret at the unfortunate, and unintentional, bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Regardless of my continuing concerns with some of China's practices, I certainly feel great sorrow that innocent civilians were hurt under these circumstances.

Nevertheless, we can not, we will not, let this tragic accident, nor the impact it may have on our relations with China, silence our voices on the subject of democracy and human rights in China, or cause us to overlook the continuing ramifications of the events in Tiananmen Square ten years ago. China's human rights practices remain abhorrent, and we will not allow recent events to dampen our continued vigilance and willingness to condemn such practices. It is noteworthy that the demonstrations in China in reaction to the bombing are perhaps the largest since the Tiananmen Square protests. It is ironic that public protest is OK when it serves the government's interest, and not OK when it threatens the government's hold on power. This is an unacceptable double standard, and I believe we would be derelict in our duties if we did not keep our attention focused on the lack of freedom in China.

As we all know, this April, under considerable pressure from the Congress, the United States sponsored a resolution at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to condemn China's ongoing abuses of human rights. As in past years, China's leaders aggressively lobbied against efforts at the Commission earlier and more actively than the countries that supported the resolution. Once again, Beijing's vigorous efforts have resulted in a "no action" motion at the Commission. While I commend the Administration's actions this year, I question whether our late and halfhearted support for condemnation of China doomed that resolution to failure. We must not allow China to believe that its human rights practices are acceptable. We must remember that if it was only under the pressure of previous Geneva resolu-

tions that China signed in 1997 the UN Covenant of Social Economic and Cultural Rights and in October 1998 the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We should also not overlook the fact that neither of these important international documents has yet been ratified or implemented.

Mr. President, while recent attention has been drawn to the Embassy bombing, repeated allegations of espionage and of efforts to influence our elections, and the negotiations for China's entrance to the WTO, these current concerns should not obscure our views of the ongoing human rights abuses that abound throughout China and Tibet. According to Amnesty International, the human rights situation in China shows no fundamental change, despite the recent promises from the government of China. At least 2,000 people remain in prison for counter-revolutionary crimes that are no longer even on the books in China. At least 200 individuals detained or arrested for Tiananmen Square activities a decade ago are also still in prison. By China's own statistics, there are nearly a quarter of a million Chinese people imprisoned under the "re-education through labor" system. This situation demonstrates that China has yet to learn the lesson of Tiananmen Square—that the aspiration of the Chinese people for human rights and democratic reform will not disappear with time or repression.

On this, the tenth anniversary of the traumatic Tiananmen Square massacre, we must remember the brave Chinese citizens who stood before the tanks and gave their lives to express their hopes for freedom. They breathed their last on the bloody pavement of Tiananmen, hoping that their sacrifice would help bring democratic reform and respect for human rights to their fellow countrymen. We must continue to honor those who made such dramatic sacrifices for their beliefs. In this momentous year in which China marks not only the tenth anniversary of Tiananmen Square, but also the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we must not choose silence on this issue. Only by repeating our demands for change, can we appropriately honor those who were willing to sacrifice all to achieve a better life for the people of China.

Mr. President, I strongly commend my friends, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) for their leadership on this important, long-standing issue. ●

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet

on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. on TV violence and safe harbor legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, May 18, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on "ESEA: Educating the Forgotten Half" during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 10:00 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed sulfur standard for gasoline as contained in the proposed Tier Two standard for automobiles Tuesday, May 18, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND REGULATION

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production, and Regulation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 18, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing, which is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 924, the Federal Royalty Certainty Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY CONSERVATION AND RURAL REVITALIZATION

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday May 18, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss noxious weeds and plant pests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it may be human nature to overlook the