

having been engaged in this conduct? But for some Members of the Senate, this was not enough. So we gave the President one further set of powers, waiver authority, which allows the President to waive the imposition of measures required under this legislation if he determines that the supplier country was taking appropriate actions to penalize the entity for such acts of proliferation and to deter future proliferation. The President also can waive the sanctions if he determines that such a waiver is important to the national security of the United States.

How little would be enough? It isn't mandatory. It is optional. It requires multiple instances. It must be an entity already identified by the President. It must be a technology already identified by the Government. It isn't mandatory. The President can waive it. He can cite larger national interests.

I believe there is a positive impact with the passage of this amendment.

Now I ask the Senate another question: What is the impact of failing to enact it? Who could ever believe that this Senate considers proliferation issues to be serious, that we are concerned that there is a price to selling these weapons of mass destruction or these technologies to other nations, if we cannot at a minimum pass this authorizing sanction on an optional basis, to be used if the President wants to use it?

Imagine the message in Beijing or North Korea or Iran or Iraq. Are we so desperate for trade, is this economy so desperate for that one more dollar immediately, not to offend a potential investor or buyer, that we would compromise our own good judgment?

I don't believe we would lose a dollar of trade with this amendment. I don't believe we lose a product, a job. But even if we did, even if I were wrong and we did, is the price too high to send a message that in our proliferation policy there is more than words?

Words will not defend us. It is not at all clear that our missile defense shield will ever protect us. This might. It can't hurt. It at least can set a serious tone that we will not be dealt with with impunity. Trade with us; get the benefits of our market. But we will look the other way while you send dangerous technologies to nations that kill our people or threaten the peace.

In a recent editorial, the Washington Post noted:

China's continuing assistance to Pakistan's weapons program in the face of so many U.S. efforts to talk Beijing out of it shows the limits of a nonconfrontational approach.

The Post went on to say:

The United States should make clear that . . . Chinese missile-making is incompatible with business as usual.

A Wall Street Journal editorial stated:

If there is an assumption in Beijing that it can be less observant to U.S. concerns now that its WTO membership seems assured, the Chinese leadership is making a serious mistake.

Are they? The Wall Street Journal was too optimistic. Whether they are making a serious mistake will be judged by the vote on this bill, win or lose. How many Senators consider proliferation issues and national security to be more than words but a policy with strength, with cost, with sanction, if our security is violated?

If we pass PNTR alone and do not pass legislation addressing these important national security concerns, I fear for the message that is sent and the priorities of this Senate. This Senate will always be sensitive to business investment, trading opportunities, and economic growth. It is our responsibility to assure that America is prosperous and strong and growing. We will meet that responsibility.

But it is the essence of leadership to understand that no one responsibility stands alone. As we govern the national economy, we possess responsibility for the national security. No economy can be so big, no economy can grow so swiftly, there can be no number of jobs with national income that can reach no level that makes for a secure American future if missile technology spreads to Iraq and Iran, if nuclear weapons begin to circle the globe and unstable regimes.

Where, my colleagues, will your economy take you then? Balance, my friends. The Thompson-Torricelli amendment offers balance. We are pleased by our prosperity, but we are not blinded by it. We are blessed to live in a time of peace, but we understand how we earned it—by strong policies of national security. That is what the Thompson-Torricelli amendment offers today.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:49 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

TO AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous order, the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. HELMS, is recognized to offer an amendment.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to deliver my remarks seated at my desk.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4125

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 4125.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] proposes an amendment numbered 4125.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(To require the President certify to Congress that the People's Republic of China has taken certain actions with respect to ensuring human rights protection)

On page 2, line 4, before the end period, insert the following: “; FINDINGS”.

On page 4, before line 1, insert the following:

(c) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People's Republic of China has not yet ratified the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it signed in October of 1998.

(2) The 1999 State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices found that—

(A) the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in violation of internationally accepted norms;

(B) the Government of the People's Republic of China's poor human rights record deteriorated markedly throughout the year, as the Government intensified efforts to suppress dissent;

(C) abuses by Chinese authorities exist, including instances of extrajudicial killings, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, lengthy incommunicado detentions, and denial of due process;

(D) violence against women exists in the People's Republic of China, including coercive family planning practices such as forced abortion and forced sterilization, prostitution, discrimination against women, trafficking in women and children, abuse of children, and discrimination against the disabled and minorities; and

(E) tens of thousands of members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement were detained after the movement was banned in July 1999, several leaders of the movement were sentenced to long prison terms in late December, hundreds were sentenced administratively to reeducation through labor, and according to some reports, the Government of the People's Republic of China started confining some Falun Gong adherents to psychiatric hospitals.

(3) The Department of State's 2000 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom states that during 1999 and 2000—

(A) “the Chinese government's respect for religious freedom deteriorated markedly”;

(B) the Chinese police closed many “underground” mosques, temples, seminaries, Catholic churches, and Protestant “house churches”;

(C) leaders of unauthorized groups are often the targets of harassment, interrogations, detention, and physical abuse in the People's Republic of China;

(D) in some areas, Chinese security authorities used threats, demolition of unregistered property, extortion of “fines”, interrogation, detention, and at times physical abuse to harass religious figures and followers; and

(E) the Government of the People's Republic of China continued its “patriotic education” campaign aimed at enforcing compliance with government regulations and either cowering or weeding out monks and nuns