

MARKUP ON: H. CON. RES. 292 AND H.R. 3707

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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MARKUP ON: H. CON. RES. 292 AND H.R. 3707

Thursday, March 23, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Benjamin A. Gilman (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Mr. GILMAN. The Committee will come to order.

The Committee on International Relations meets in open session pursuant to notice to markup two measures. Our two measures today are H. Con. Res. 292, congratulating President-elect Chen Shui-bian and Vice President-elect Annette Lu of Taiwan and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, and H.R. 3707, to authorize funds for the site selection and construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan.

We will first proceed with H. Con. Res. 292 relating to the recent elections in Taiwan. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Con. Res. 292, a resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of Presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

Mr. GILMAN. This resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and considered yesterday. It was reported without amendment, without objection. A preamble and operative language of the resolution will be read in that order for amendment. The clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas, section 2(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act states the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all of the people on Taiwan to be an objective of the United States.

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is open to amendment at any point. This measure was introduced by the gentleman from Texas, the distinguished Majority Leader, Mr. Armev.

[The bill appears in the appendix.]

I now recognize the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific to introduce it to the Committee.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I move to strike the last word. This resolution was introduced just yesterday by the Majority Leader, Mr. Armev of Texas. Following introduction of the resolution, the Subcommittee on Asia

and the Pacific met, marked-up, and reported this resolution by voice vote.

Both myself and Mr. Lantos, the distinguished Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific are Co-sponsors of H. Con. Res. 292, as are other Members of the Subcommittee, including Mr. Rohrabacher and Dr. Cooksey. Indeed, I would like to point out to the Committee colleagues that this resolution is a product of input from both the Majority and Minority. The resolution congratulates the people of Taiwan and Taiwan's leaders for the successful conclusion of their Presidential election of March 18th.

This, of course, is an historic point because it marks a free election by the Chinese, succeeding another free election. Of course, those are precedents. It is the first such transition of a national office from one elected leader to another in a very long history of Chinese societies. It actually marks a move from leadership from one party to another in Taiwan. The people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free democratic society which respects human rights and embraces free markets. Contrary to the claims of those trying to defend Communism and other authoritarian forms of government, the election clearly demonstrates that democracy works, and that the Chinese people—those on Taiwan, and those on the mainland—yearn for it and could flourish with it.

Success of democracy in Taiwan is indeed I think a powerful model for the mainland. The resolution also acknowledges that a stable and peaceful security environment in East Asia is essential to the furtherance of democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries, and reaffirms U.S. policy toward Taiwan as set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act.

In this regard, the resolution appropriately expresses a sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China should not make provocative threats against Taiwan and should undertake steps that would lead to substantive dialogue—including the renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan—and encourage democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human and religious rights for the People's Republic of China.

I am encouraged that since the election in Taiwan, Beijing has curtailed, to a certain degree, its aggressive and unhelpful rhetoric, and that the PRC appears again, to a certain degree, to be extending the offer for renewed dialogue. It is an offer which I hope is offered in good faith. Across the strait, President-elect Chen and others in Taipei are also calling for renewed dialogue, and are already proposing the kind of responsible statesmen-like policies that could expand and accelerate this dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, this is a timely, needed, and straightforward resolution. It passed without opposition in the Subcommittee. I understand the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member, Mr. Gejdenson, will offer an amendment which corrects a technical drafting error and also makes another change in language that is more appropriate. By the way, the amendment has the support of Mr. Arme. I thank my two colleagues, the leaders of the Committee, for offering the amendment. I urge the Committee to support the amendment and adopt the resolution.

Thank you. I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bereuter appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. LANTOS. MR. Lantos. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am delighted to join my good friend and colleague from Nebraska in urging my colleagues to support this resolution. I would like to say a few things because the resolution is subject to misunderstanding on many scores. Taiwan represents one of the great success stories of the post-World War II era.

Taiwan, which used to be a destitute, primitive, backward society has become one of the great economic success stories of the last Century. In its last decade, Taiwan has become one of the great political success stories by becoming a full-fledged democracy. From an American point of view, there is nothing that could be more desirable than to see an under-developed autocracy become a developed democracy.

This stands in sharp contrast with the continuing authoritarian and dictatorial government which rules in Beijing. I think our resolution needs to be viewed as one of congratulating the people of Taiwan on having attained both a very high degree of economic development, and creating a functioning political democracy.

There is a free press in Taiwan, contrary to mainland China. There are political alternatives in Taiwan, contrary to mainland China. I think it is high time that some in this country recognize that the leadership in Beijing is hanging on, as the Soviet leadership did, not too many years ago, to a nonfunctioning and fundamentally unacceptable regime, unacceptable to its own people, which sooner or later, and I hope sooner, will give way to a multi-party functioning democracy on the mainland.

I think it is important to realize, Mr. Chairman, the extent to which the leadership on the mainland is out of touch with the people. Both within its own country and on Taiwan there were threats issued by the government in Beijing concerning this election just a few days before that election. As some of us predicted, those crude threats became highly counter-productive.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan for having the courage to stand up to the threats of the mainland and elect the person they chose to elect. The reaction, I think, in our own country to these crude threats by the Chinese Communist regime I am convinced are similarly negative.

Beijing, at long last, must understand that its threats do not work. That it must recognize the people's desire to function in a free and democratic fashion. This means religious groups must be allowed their freedom. This means that practitioners of Falnm Gong must no longer be persecuted. This means that followers of all faiths need to have the freedom to practice their religion. It also means that the handful of incredibly courageous individuals who expressed views contrary to this regime need to be released.

Our resolution is pro-Chinese people. I personally have the highest regard for the Chinese civilization. It is one of the great civilizations of this world. It is one of the historic tragedies of this period that these great people are ruled by an autocratic and dictatorial regime. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution

which recognizes the enormous achievements of the people of Taiwan, and holds out the promise for the people of China.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Delahunt.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I have no comment.

Mr. GILMAN. Are there any other Members seeking recognition?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. If not, I would note that I am pleased to bring this measure before the Committee today for consideration. I want to thank our Majority Leader, Mr. Arney of Texas, for introducing the timely resolution, and express my appreciation to the Chairman of our Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. Bereuter, for expeditiously considering the resolution in the Subcommittee.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan on a very successful election and for taking another step in consolidating their democratic evolution. They should be very proud of their democracy, registering an 80 percent voter turn-out. I wish we could have a similar turn-out in our own Nation. On May 20th, for the first time in Taiwan's history, the mantle of power is going to be passing from one democratically elected president to another.

This peaceful transfer of power will be taking place despite the provocative attempts by the government of Beijing to intimidate Taiwan's voters and influence the outcome of their election. The new government of Chen Shui-bian faces many challenges as it ascends to office. I want to commend the President-elect for his proposal of embarking on a journey of reconciliation with China, and for his offer to meet with China's leaders.

Talks should only go forward in a pace and scope acceptable to the parties on both sides of the Strait. I want to encourage the PRC to exercise restraint; to avoid fanning the flames of nationalism over Taiwan in an effort to divert attention from some of their own internal problems in China; to open a dialogue with Taipei; and to end its military threats toward that island.

As has been longstanding American policy, it is essential that the future of Taiwan be determined in a peaceful and mutually agreeable manner to the people on both sides of the Strait. Let me close by saying that I hope the world will take appropriate notice of what has yet transpired in Taiwan, as just another Asian nation has fully embraced democratic principles and practices, further proving that democracy is not an Eastern or Western value, as some might contend, but a universal value and a right of people everywhere.

We especially hope that the 1.2 billion people of the PRC and their unelected government take particular notice of the model Taiwan provides for China's future. We call upon the Administration to work productively with the new government and to treat Mr. Chen as an equal partner in addressing cross-strait issues.

Last, I would like to be added to the list of Co-sponsors of this important resolution. I look forward to bringing it to the Floor for consideration at an early date.

Is there any other Member seeking recognition?

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I rise in support of this measure before us today. Obviously, it is important for us, as you might say, the premiere—outside of the British Parliament—the premiere elected

body in the world, to acknowledge that we have an historic event taking place in Taiwan. China is, of course, a country with the longest history of any country of the world.

The Chinese people are rightfully proud of their own heritage. However, it has not been a democratic heritage. Today, for the first time in this long history of China, there is a government that has been elected and replaced, again, through democratic elections. We have a new President-elect, again, through democratic elections.

This is a phenomenal historic moment. I believe what has happened on Taiwan could well be a model for all of the billions of people in China. Perhaps this is why Beijing is so bellicose and so belligerent at this point because they know that once they see a group of Chinese people who are able to, through the ballot box, help direct their own destiny, and control the government policies of their own country, this message will seep throughout the rest of the mainland of China.

I believe the ultimate solution to the friction that now is taking place between the United States and China, and China and its neighbors, and especially between Beijing and Taipei, the ultimate solution is the democratization of the mainland. So, this resolution today, taking note of this historic occasion, is something that I totally support. Thank you Mr. Gilman.

The history books, I do not think, are ever going to remember our names—we have a spot here in Congress—but history will remember this election, because I think it is going to lead to big and important things on the mainland of China.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. Gejdenson, do you have some remarks?

Mr. GEJDENSON. No comments, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Any other Members seeking recognition?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. If not, I have an amendment at the desk. The clerk will read the amendment.

Ms. BLOOMER. Amendment to H. Con. Res. 292 offered by Mr. Gilman and Mr. Gejdenson. In the fifth clause of the preamble, strike “head of state” and insert “President.”

[The amendment appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. The amendment will be considered as having been read. The main purpose of this amendment is technical. First, to expand “House of Representatives” to “Congress”, and Senate and House concurrent resolution, and change the term “legal” to “statutory,” which is more accurate.

Second, regarding China’s provocative threats toward Taiwan, Mr. Gejdenson and I have agreed to change some of the wording in the second resolve clause to a broader declarative statement stating that China should refrain, in a general sense, from making provocative threats against Taiwan, and not limit it to those threats contained in the State Council White Paper.

Mr. Gejdenson, do you have any comments on the amendment?

Mr. GEJDENSON. I think you have done an excellent job explaining it, Mr. Chairman

Mr. GILMAN. Is no one else seeking recognition?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I previously spoke my support for your effort. I appreciate its intent and what it accomplishes.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Bereuter.

The question is now on the amendment. All in favor, signify by—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I would like to place in the record an article that was taken from a People's Liberation Army weekly publication in China that was just put all over China in which the Plaintiff's Liberation Army is suggesting that attacks on the United States may be necessary to accomplish their goals with Taiwan, just so people understand how important the measure is that we are talking about today.

Mr. GILMAN. What is the date of that article?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It is a Knight-Ritter article about the article in a March 20th weekly Chinese publication from the People's Liberation Army.

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection, the article will be made a part of the record.

[The article referred appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. The question is on the amendment. All in favor, signify in the usual manner.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GILMAN. Opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. The amendment is carried.

Any other amendments by any of the Members?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. If not, the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, is recognized to offer a motion.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution as amended on the suspension calendar.

Mr. GILMAN. The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Nebraska. All those in favor of the motion, signify in the usual manner, by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GILMAN. All those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

Mr. GILMAN. We will now consider H.R. 3707, relating to the construction of the American Institute on Taiwan. The Chair lays the bill before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the bill.

Ms. BLOOMER. H.R. 3707, a bill to authorize funds for the site selection and construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan.

[The bill appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. The clerk will read the bill for amendment.

Ms. BLOOMER. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America and Congress assembled, section 1, short title.

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection, the bill is considered as having been read. It is open for amendment at any point. The bill was in

front of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, which is weighing further consideration of it.

I now recognize the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, to introduce the bill.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for marking up this bill so expeditiously. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Human Rights, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Smith, for his much appreciated assistance in moving the bill forward so quickly and for suggested minor refinements on pages 3 and 4 of the resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is important to note that the United States' commitment to the security and well-being of the people of Taiwan is enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979, a Congressional initiative which continues to be the guide for our unofficial relations. The Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei, as a nonprofit corporation to implement, on behalf of the United States, any and all programs, transactions, and other relations with Taiwan. In other words, to function as our unofficial embassy in Taiwan. The current AIT facilities, which in some cases consist of aging Quonset huts, are grossly inadequate, and were not designed for the important functions that AIT performs. They were built or occupied as temporary facilities almost 50 years ago and are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.

From the perspective of security, AIT fails miserably, surrounded by taller buildings and lacking adequate setback. Major, very cost-ineffective enhancements would be required to bring it into compliance for security requirements. In fact, it is an impossibility. The site is entirely inappropriate for construction of a new facility. Because of our unique relationship with Taiwan, characterized by the TRA, the State Department is not able, under routine authority, to proceed with planning and construction of a new facility for AIT.

The Congress must specifically appropriate and authorize the necessary funds. While AIT has made a good faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building, and they have set aside about \$25 million, these funds will never be sufficient for even a modest but adequate complex that is sufficient and secure enough to meet AIT's needs.

This resolution, which this Member introduced, has bipartisan support. Although only recently introduced, the resolution is Co-sponsored by the distinguished Ranking Member of the Committee, Mr. Gejdenson, as well as other distinguished Members of the Committee, including Mr. Lantos, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Rohrabacher.

The bill authorizes \$75 million for the planning, the acquisition, and the construction of the new AIT facility. Members should not be concerned about that figure. It is perhaps conservative. I would tell my colleagues that the facility for AIT cannot even get in line for future construction projects, at this point, without authorization. It will have to take its place in line with the other construction needs of embassies and consulates around the world if we authorize it. It cannot get its place in line until we do.

Over 20 years after the enactment of the TRA, our unofficial relations with the people on Taiwan are stronger, more robust, and more important than ever. It is a very important visa post; one of the three or four most important in the world in terms of number of visas processed. To reflect the importance of these relations, as well as for the very practical reasons of efficient and secure operations, the Congress needs to act to authorize the lengthy effort to upgrade our diplomatic facilities on Taiwan.

Mr. Chairman, I know we are short on time, but I do want to make a statement now that is important. Recently, as is apparent to all of us, we have been seized with issues involving our relationship with Taiwan and China. Today relatedly, we marked up in addition to this bill another resolution which congratulates the people of Taiwan on the success of their historic democratic elections.

We have also been concerned by the bellicose rhetoric from Beijing that once again preceded the Taiwanese Presidential elections. The House has also recently passed a properly amended version of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act (TSEA). We are preparing for the upcoming debate on granting permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) for China, as a part of that country's succession to the WTO.

In view of all of these developments, now is the appropriate time to send another message of our unshakable long-term commitment to our critically important relations with Taiwan. We are there in Taipei for as long as it takes. In the judgment of this Member, Congress should and will work with the Administration to approve permanent normal trade relations with the PRC as a part of our support for its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), just as we will support the near simultaneity of Taiwan's accession to the WTO.

At the same time, it is very important that we make it crystal clear to the PRC and the world that we are calmly but resolutely standing at the side of Taiwan providing for the sale of necessary defensive weapons to wit: to defend itself against all hostile or coercive actions to enforce its reunification with PRC through any process that is not a peaceful, noncoercive one.

We are, by our recent actions regarding Taiwan, making our continued, positively supported, TRA-driven relationship with Taiwan unambiguous. We are proceeding on a two-track Taiwan-PRC policy, resolutely, unflinchingly, unabashedly standing by Taiwan's side while demonstrating our willingness to engage with the PRC in a great variety of ways when it is in our national interest and consistent with our regional stabilizing role to do so.

We have benign motives in our great interest in Asia. As a super power, we will act like one and defend our national interest in the region and support all of our loyal allies.

Mr. BERMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BEREUTER. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BERMAN. One way to further clarify that two-track policy that you articulated is that, in the event that we accord permanent normal trade relations status to the PRC, we make it quite clear in the decision that automatically, not by virtue of action of the Chief Executive or subsequent action by the Congress, but auto-

matically, such status is revoked totally if China invades, attacks, blockades Taiwan. They lose access to all of the U.S. market.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I would just tell him that Congresswoman Dunn and I offered a resolution about 10 days ago that you may want to consider as a Co-sponsor which would provide the sense to Congress that Taiwan's accession to the WTO ought to be simultaneous or immediately thereafter.

Now, if the gentleman might want to consider an amendment further to be more specifically on this track he could certainly consider it. I would urge him to look at that resolution.

Mr. BERMAN. Just further, I would look at that resolution certainly, but I think that perhaps, quite legitimately, we are very ambiguous in our response, should this attack occur, in many ways. I think this is one area where we should be unambiguous.

Mr. BEREUTER. Unambiguous, right.

Mr. BERMAN. Even making it a sense of Congress leaves an ambiguity. I would like to see it automatically invoked if possible.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. If there are no further comments, the gentleman has an amendment.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I do offer an amendment.

Mr. GILMAN. The clerk will read the amendment.

Ms. Bloomer: Amendment offered by Mr. Bereuter, page 3, strike line 10 and all that follows to page 4, line 3, and insert the following.

[The amendment appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. The amendment is considered as having been read.

Mr. Bereuter, on the amendment.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, these recommendations come to us from Mr. Smith and his staff. They relate to a reorientation of the wording in sections (a) and (b), on pages 3 and 4, and constituted no substantive change. I encourage the adoption thereof.

Mr. GILMAN. I support the amendment.

The question is on the amendment. All in favor, signify in the usual manner.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GILMAN. Opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. The amendment is carried.

In support the amendment and appreciate the gentleman's willingness to provide these kinds of appropriations. This measure does have bipartisan support. I urge our Members to support the bill as amended. The American Institute in Taiwan serves such an important function. The mission should be appropriately supported by the Congress, and no doubt the current facility is inadequate.

Through its authorization of funds, this bill supports the efforts to find a suitable location for a new facility. It encourages the initiation of construction. We are looking toward a long future with Taiwan. It is time to make a long-range commitment and invest in a new facility to support that relationship.

Are there any other Members seeking recognition?

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. If not, the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, is recognized to offer a motion.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my full statement be made a part of the record.

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bereuter appears in the appendix.]

Mr. BEREUTER. I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution, as amended, on the suspension calendar.

Mr. GILMAN. The question is now on the motion from the gentleman from Nebraska. All those in favor, signify in the usual manner.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GILMAN. Those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Mr. GILMAN. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

The Committee now stands in recess. Pending the vote, we will continue very shortly. The Committee is in recess.

[Whereupon, at 10:40 a.m., the Committee recessed, to reconvene this same day after the vote.]

A P P E N D I X

MARCH 23, 2000

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 292

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ARMEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

Whereas section 2(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) states "[t]he preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" to be an objective of the United States;

Whereas Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process;

Whereas the people of Taiwan have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigns and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas Taiwan successfully conducted a presidential election on March 18, 2000;

Whereas President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has actively supported the consolidation of democratic institutions and processes in Taiwan since 1988 when he became head of state;

Whereas this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another in the history of Chinese societies;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Taiwan is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in East Asia and is supported by the United States Congress and the American people;

Whereas a stable and peaceful security environment in East Asia is essential to the furtherance of democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries, as well as to the protection of human rights throughout the region;

Whereas since 1972 United States policy toward the People's Republic of China has been predicated upon, as stated in section 2(b)(3) of the Taiwan Relations Act, "the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means";

Whereas section 2(b)(6) of the Taiwan Relations Act further pledges "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan";

Whereas on June 9, 1998, the House of Representatives voted unanimously to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 270 that called upon the President of the United States to seek “a public renunciation by the People’s Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan”;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has consistently refused to renounce the use of force against Taiwan;

Whereas the State Council, an official organ at the highest level of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, issued a “white paper” on February 21, 2000, which threatened “to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force,” if Taiwan indefinitely delays entering into negotiations with the People’s Republic of China on the issue of reunification; and

Whereas the February 21, 2000, statement by the State Council significantly escalates tensions across the Taiwan Straits and sets forth a new condition that has not heretofore been stated regarding the conditions that would prompt the People’s Republic of China to use force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for the successful conclusion of presidential
4 elections on March 18, 2000, and for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free,
5 democratic society which respects human rights and
6 embraces free markets;
7
8

1 (2) President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan is to be
2 congratulated for his significant contributions to
3 freedom and democracy on Taiwan;

4 (3) President-elect Chen Shui-bian and Vice
5 President-elect Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of Taiwan are
6 to be congratulated for their victory, and they have
7 the strong support and best wishes of the House of
8 Representatives and the American people for a suc-
9 cessful administration;

10 (4) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
11 tives that the People's Republic of China should
12 abandon its provocative threats against Taiwan and
13 undertake steps that would lead to a substantive dia-
14 logue, including a renunciation of the use of force
15 against Taiwan and progress toward democracy, the
16 rule of law, and protection of human and religious
17 rights in the People's Republic of China; and

18 (5) the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act
19 (Public Law 96-8) are hereby affirmed as the legal
20 standard by which United States policy toward Tai-
21 wan shall be determined.

Honorable Doug Bereuter
Committee on International Relations
Mark-up of H.Con.Res. 292
Statement on the Resolution
March 23, 2000

Mr. Chairman, House Concurrent Resolution 292 was introduced yesterday, by the Majority Leader, Mr. Arney of Texas. Following the introduction of the resolution, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific met and marked-up and reported this resolution by voice vote to the full Committee. Both myself and Mr. Lantos, the distinguished ranking minority member of the Subcommittee, are cosponsors of H.Con.Res. 292, as are other members of the Subcommittee including Mr. Rohrabacher and Dr. Cooksey. Indeed, I would like to point out to my Committee colleagues that this resolution is the product of input from both the majority and the minority.

This resolution congratulates the people of Taiwan and Taiwan's leaders for the successful conclusion of their presidential election on March 18th. Indeed, this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another in the very long history of Chinese societies. The people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free, democratic society which respects human rights and embraces free markets. Contrary to the claims of those trying to defend communism and other authoritarian forms of government, this election clearly demonstrates that democracy clearly could work in China and that the Chinese people increasingly yearn for it and could flourish with it. The success of democracy in Taiwan is, indeed, a powerful model for the Mainland.

This resolution also acknowledges that a stable and peaceful security environment in East Asia is essential to the furtherance of democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries and reaffirms U.S. policy toward Taiwan as set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act. In this regard, the resolution appropriately, I believe, expresses the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China should refrain from making provocative threats against Taiwan and should instead undertake steps that would lead to substantive dialogue, including a renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan and the encouragement of democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human and religious rights in the People's Republic of China.

I am encouraged that since the election in Taiwan, Beijing has curtailed, to a certain degree, its aggressive and unhelpful rhetoric and appears again, to a certain degree, to be extending the offer for a renewed dialogue. It is an offer which I hope is offered in good faith. Across the strait, President-elect Chen and others in Taipei are also calling for renewed dialogue and are already proposing the kind of responsible, statesmanlike policies that could expand and accelerate this dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, this is a timely, needed and straight forward resolution. It passed without opposition in Subcommittee. I strongly support it and urge its adoption by the full International Relations Committee.

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 292
OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN AND MR. GEJDENSON

In the fifth clause of the preamble, strike “head of state” and insert “President”.

In paragraph (4) of the resolved clause—

(1) strike “House of Representatives” and insert “Congress”; and

(2) strike “should abandon its provocative threats against Taiwan and” and insert “should refrain from making provocative threats against Taiwan and should instead”.

In paragraph (5) of the resolved clause, strike “legal” and insert “statutory”.

NATIONAL POST

O N L I N E

Page URL: <http://www.cfc.dnd.ca/spotlight/2000/03/22/spotlight.en.html>

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

China prints plan to attack Taiwan Suggestions of how to conquer island in army newspaper

Peter Goodspeed
National Post, with files from Knight-Ridder

Elite elements of China's armed forces may be pushing hard to go to war with Taiwan, even if it could result in a chilling nuclear encounter with the United States.

Just two days after Taiwanese voters ended a half century of political domination by the Kuomintang and elected a pro-independence president, the Haowangjiao Weekly, a newspaper supported by the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), has published a special 16-page edition on Taiwan that methodically lays out in chilling detail ways in which China may seek to conquer Taiwan by force.

One of the newspaper's articles openly advocates using neutron nuclear bombs, which kill people with massive doses of radiation but leave most buildings intact, to overwhelm Taiwan.

"The PLA is determined to liberate Taiwan," the article says. "If they meet hard resistance, then they can choose to use weapons of mass destruction, like neutron bombs."

The newspaper goes on to boast that China has developed new long-range missiles capable of carrying as many as 10 nuclear warheads each. It also says Beijing is in the "final stage" of developing an arsenal of mobile sea and ground-launched multiple warhead missiles with target ranges that vary from 8,000 to 14,500 kilometres.

While acknowledging that a conventional military attack on Taiwan will inevitably draw the United States into a confrontation with China, the newspaper dismisses America's commitment to Taiwan.

"The United States will not sacrifice 200 million Americans for 20 million Taiwanese," one of the articles predicts. "They will finally acknowledge the difficulty and withdraw."

To further discourage U.S. support for Taiwan, the newspaper says China can adopt a three-stage strategy that relies first on issuing threats to Taiwan through the news media and mass public demonstrations. Next, China could seek to put diplomatic pressure on countries like Japan and South Korea not to get involved and finally, China could offer the United States major economic concessions, if it declines to defend Taiwan.

If the threats and promises fail, China could launch a massive attack on U.S. aircraft carriers that would be sent to defend Taiwan, the newspaper says. In a worse-case scenario, the paper suggests China could also attack U.S. allies in Asia, as well as striking at U.S. military bases in Japan, South Korea and Guam.

Chinese troops could also be deployed to North Korea in an effort to neutralize South Korea, the newspaper suggests.

If the United States persists in coming to Taiwan's aid, then China could "cancel the promise of not using nuclear weapons first" and demonstrate its nuclear capability in the waters near Taiwan, the article said.

Finally, Beijing could bluntly threaten the United States with a nuclear strike, if it refused to withdraw from Taiwan.

"China will lose a large number of people and material to liberate Taiwan, and economic growth will be slowed down or temporarily stopped," the newspaper predicts. "But as long as the territory of the mainland does not suffer huge damage, the real losses are only soldiers and military materials. It won't present a serious threat to the national economy. What's more, China gets Taiwan. Even though we get a damaged Taiwan, it's better than not having Taiwan."

The Haowangjiao Weekly is an arm of the State Commission of Science Technology and National Defence, an agency of the People's Liberation Army.

Last summer, in an attempt to discredit U.S. allegations it stole U.S. nuclear weapons technology, China acknowledged for the first time that it possesses neutron bombs and said it test fired its first neutron bomb 11 years ago.

While the pugnacious newspaper articles may be little more than a propaganda exercise by an influential element of the armed forces, the Haowangjiao reports are remarkably similar to earlier war scenarios allegedly drawn up by China's Central Military Commission.

Earlier this month, the Internet newsmagazine INSIGHT (www.insightmag.com) published what it claims is a leaked confidential Chinese military document that shows China is preparing for war with Taiwan.

Widely regarded as part of the campaign to intimidate Taiwanese voters in the run-up to last Saturday's election, the leaked report suggests China's military leaders are planning a possible "first strike" against Taiwan.

The document, which is described as an internal report distributed last August by the Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Commission to regional military commanders, spoke of "the increased possibility for a military solution" and advised military leaders to prepare to fight the United States if it intervened to defend Taiwan.

"It's better to fight now than in the future -- the earlier the better," the document advises.

While stating that peaceful reunification with Taiwan "is still the best option" the paper urges military leaders "to be well prepared for war" and envisages a "first fatal strike" on Taiwan to ensure Taiwanese forces "have no way to organize effective resistance.

"We will be able to control Taiwan before the U.S. intervention and then concentrate our forces to fight the U.S.," the document concludes. "If worst comes to worst, we will gain full control of Taiwan before full deployment of U.S. troops."

In the event of a war, the authors of the study predict Washington won't have the stomach for a fight with China.

"If the U.S. forces lose thousands or hundreds of men under our powerful strikes, the anti-war sentiment within their country will force the U.S. government to take the same path as they did in Vietnam," the study says. "Unlike Iraq and Yugoslavia, China is not only a big country, but also possesses a nuclear arsenal that has long since been incorporated into the state warfare system and plays a real role in our national defence."

Yesterday Taiwan's parliament sought to defuse tensions with the mainland by voting to lift a 50-year-old ban on direct trade and transport links with China. The new legislation would allow direct shipping links between the Taiwanese occupied islands of Quemoy, Matsu and Penghu and ports in southeast China.

At the same time, Tang Jiaxuan, China's foreign minister, repeated a warning to the United States against interfering in Taiwan.

"If the U.S. side is bent on engaging in confrontation, the Chinese side will take it on and fight to the end," he told Richard Holbrooke, the visiting U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "The question of Taiwan is China's internal affair," Mr. Tang said.

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106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3707

To authorize funds for the site selection and construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize funds for the site selection and construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Institute in
5 Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22
9 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), the Congress established the
10 American Institute in Taiwan (hereafter in this Act

1 referred to as "AIT"), a nonprofit corporation incor-
2 porated in the District of Columbia, to carry out on
3 behalf of the United States Government any and all
4 programs, transactions, and other relations with
5 Taiwan;

6 (2) the Congress has recognized AIT for the
7 successful role it has played in sustaining and en-
8 hancing United States relations with Taiwan;

9 (3) the Taipei office of AIT is housed in build-
10 ings which were not originally designed for the im-
11 portant functions that AIT performs, whose location
12 does not provide adequate security for its employees,
13 and which, because they are almost 50 years old,
14 have become increasingly expensive to maintain;

15 (4) the aging state of the AIT office building in
16 Taipei is neither conducive to the safety and welfare
17 of AIT's American and local employees nor commen-
18 surate with the level of contact that exists between
19 the United States and Taiwan;

20 (5) because of the unofficial character of United
21 States relations with Taiwan, the Department of
22 State is not responsible for funding the construction
23 of a new office building for the Taipei office of AIT;

24 (6) AIT has made a good faith effort to set
25 aside funds for the construction of a new office

1 building, but these funds will be insufficient to con-
2 struct a building that is large and secure enough to
3 meet AIT's current and future needs; and

4 (7) because the Congress established AIT and
5 has a strong interest in United States relations with
6 Taiwan, the Congress has a special responsibility to
7 ensure that AIT's requirements for safe and appro-
8 priate office quarters are met.

9 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$75,000,000 for
12 plans for, acquisition of a new site for, and construction
13 of, a new facility in Taipei, Taiwan, for AIT to carry out
14 its purposes under the Taiwan Relations Act.

15 (b) **PURPOSES.**—Funds made available under sub-
16 section (a) may be used only for the purposes of—

17 (1) the acquisition of property, facilities and, if
18 necessary, any residences or other structures located
19 in close physical proximity to such facilities, and

20 (2) the provision of security enhancements to
21 AIT to the extent necessary to bring the United
22 States Government into compliance with all require-
23 ments applicable to the security of United States
24 diplomatic facilities.

1 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to re-
3 main available until expended.

○

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3707
OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER

Page 3, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 4, line 3, and insert the following:

1 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$75,000,000 to
3 AIT for plans for a new facility, acquisition by purchase
4 or construction of a new facility, and, if necessary, resi-
5 dences or other structures located in close physical prox-
6 imity to such facility, in Taipei, Taiwan, for AIT to carry
7 out its purposes under the Taiwan Relations Act.

8 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to
9 subsection (a) may only be used if the new facility de-
10 scribed in that subsection meets all requirements applica-
11 ble to the security of United States diplomatic facilities,
12 including the requirements in the Omnibus Diplomatic Se-
13 curity and Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4801
14 et seq.) and the Secure Embassy Construction and
15 Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (as enacted by section
16 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106–113; 113 Stat 1501A–
17 451), except for those requirements which the Director of
18 AIT certifies to the Committee on International Relations
19 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Foreign Relations of the Senate are not applicable on ac-
2 count of the special status of AIT.

3 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
4 priated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to re-
5 main available until expended.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to authorize funds
for the construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suit-
able for the mission of the American Institute in Tai-
wan.”.

Statement on H.R. 3707
American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act
The Honorable Doug Bereuter
March 23, 2000

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for marking up this bill so expeditiously. This member would also like to express his sincere appreciation to the chairman of the subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Human Rights, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Smith, for his much appreciated assistance in moving this bill forward so quickly and for suggested minor refinements on pages 3-4 of the resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is important to note that the United States' commitment to the security and well being of the people of Taiwan is enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, a congressional initiative of that year which continues to be the guide of our unofficial relations. The Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), as a non-profit corporation to implement on behalf of the United States Government any and all programs, transactions and other relations with Taiwan – in other words to function as our unofficial Embassy in Taiwan.

The current AIT facilities, which in some cases consist of aging quonset huts, are grossly inadequate and were not designed for the important functions that AIT performs. They were built or occupied as temporary facilities almost 50 years ago and are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. From the perspective of security, AIT fails miserably, surrounded by taller buildings and lacking adequate setback. Major, very cost-ineffective enhancements would be required to bring it into compliance with security requirements. In fact, it is an impossibility and the site is entirely inappropriate for our new construction for the AIT.

Because of our unique relationship with Taiwan, characterized by the agreement itself, the State Department is not able under routine authority to proceed with the planning and the construction of a new facility for AIT. The Congress must specifically authorize and appropriate the necessary funds. While AIT has made a good faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building, these funds will never be sufficient for even a modest but adequate complex that is sufficient and secure enough to meet AIT's needs.

H.R. 3707, which this member introduced, has bipartisan support. Although only recently introduced, the resolution is co-sponsored by the distinguished ranking member of the Committee Mr. Gejdenson, as well as other distinguished members of the Committee including Mr. Lantos, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Rohrbacher. This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million for planning, acquisition and construction of a new facility for AIT. Over 20 years after the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, our unofficial relations with the people on Taiwan are stronger, more robust and more important than ever. In order to reflect the importance of these relations, as well as for very practical reasons of efficient and secure operations, the Congress needs to act now to authorize the lengthy effort to upgrade our diplomatic facilities on Taiwan.

Mr. Chairman, recently, as is apparent to all, we have been seized with issues involving our relations with Taiwan and China. Today, relatedly, we are marking up another resolution, H. Con. Res. 292, that congratulates the people of Taiwan on the success of their historic democratic elections. We have also been concerned by the bellicose rhetoric from Beijing that once again preceded the Taiwanese presidential elections. The House has also recently passed a properly amended version of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act and we are preparing for the upcoming debate on granting permanent normal trade relations for China as part of the country's accession to the WTO.

In view of all of these developments, now is the appropriate time to send another message of our unshakeable, long term commitment to our critically important relations with Taiwan. We are there in Taipei for as long as it takes. In the judgement of this Member, the Congress should and will work with the Administration to approve permanent normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China as part of our support for its accession to the World Trade Organization just as we support and will lead in the near simultaneity of Taiwan's accession to the WTO, a long-justified accession to the WTO that has been too long delayed. We will support the accession of the PRC to the WTO because it is in our clear national interest to do so. At the same time, it is very important that we make it crystal clear to the PRC and the world that we are calmly, but resolutely, standing at the side of Taiwan, providing for the sale of necessary defensive weapons to it to defend itself against any hostile or coercive action to force its reunification with the PRC through any process that is not a peaceful non-coercive one.

We are by our recent actions regarding Taiwan making our continued positive, supportive TRA-driven relationship with Taiwan unambiguous. We are proceeding in a two-track Taiwan-PRC policy – resolutely and unflinchingly, unabashedly standing by Taiwan's side while demonstrating our willingness to engage with the PRC in a great variety of ways when it is in our national interest and consistent with our regional-stabilizing role to do so. We have benign motives in our great interests in Asia, but as a superpower we will act like one and defend our national interests in the region and support all of our loyal allies.