

Chinese New Year's celebrations, she herself faces imminent trial and sentencing.

The crimes she is accused of committing remain unclear, despite letters from a number of us on Capitol Hill, and despite a series of requests to Chinese officials stretching back to August. Our attempts at quiet diplomacy, perhaps unsurprisingly, have failed. And so, with her trial and sentencing about to take place, it is vital that we try a different tack. That is why I am offering this resolution.

Ms. Kadeer is a prominent member of an ethnic minority group in China called Uighurs. These people are Turkic-speaking Moslems, and they form the largest ethnic group in China's northwestern-most province.

A few years back, Ms. Kadeer was lauded by the PRC for her promotion of business enterprises among women and for contributing to the economic and social development of her province. To honor her efforts, she was named by authorities to the China People's Political Consultative Congress and as a delegate to the United Nations World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

But Ms. Kadeer began to fall out of favor with officials in Beijing after her husband emigrated to the United States in 1997 and became a commentator for Voice of America. Soon thereafter, her passport was seized and the assets of an organization she founded to improve opportunities for Moslem businesswomen were frozen. Then, in 1998, Ms. Kadeer lost her position in the Consultative Congress.

Perhaps that is why five of Ms. Kadeer's children, three sisters and a brother are now living in the United States, in addition to her husband. And perhaps that is why Ms. Kadeer has expressed a desire to move to the United States herself.

That desire, for the moment, has been quashed. Last summer, as she was on her way to the hotel where the Congressional staff delegation was waiting to meet her, Kadeer was arrested. The arrest is troubling enough, but the fact that it took place as she was attempting to have a simple conversation with staffers who work for the United States Congress, I believe, requires that we take a firm stand.

Let's not forget that the PRC signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1998. Among other things, that Covenant requires signatories to guarantee their citizens the right to liberty and freedom of movement; the right to presumption of innocence until guilt is proven; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; and freedom of assembly and association. It also forbids torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, and arbitrary arrest and detention.

In signing that Covenant on behalf of the PRC, China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said, and I quote, "To realize human rights is the aspiration of all humanity. It is

also a goal that the Chinese Government has long been striving for. We believe that the universality of human rights should be respected * * *."

Well, I don't think China has respected the human rights of Rabiya Kadeer, her son or her secretary. That's why this resolution calls on China to release them and give them the chance to move to the United States, if they wish. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and move for its earliest possible passage as Ms. Kadeer's fate will soon be determined by a country that offers her little or no chance of a fair trial.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14-18, 2000, AS "NATIONAL HEART FAILURE AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas the primary goals of "National Heart Failure Awareness Week" are—

(1) to promote research related to all aspects of heart failure and provide a forum for presentation of that research;

(2) to educate heart failure caregivers and patients through programs, publications, and other media allowing for more effective treatment and diagnosis of heart failure; and

(3) to enhance the quality and duration of life for those with heart failure;

Whereas heart failure, a disease of the heart muscle, is of epidemic proportions in the United States;

Whereas as of January 1, 2000, approximately 4,600,000 Americans had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure, and an estimated 450,000 more cases will be diagnosed in the year 2000;

Whereas coronary artery disease is a cause in approximately 50 percent of the cases of patients with heart failure, and in such cases, patients often have heart attacks or require bypass surgery;

Whereas the incidence of heart failure increases with age and is the most frequent cause of hospitalization for individuals over the age of 65;

Whereas the prognosis for those diagnosed with heart failure is not promising, as less than 50 percent of patients live more than 5 years after their initial diagnosis; and

Whereas it is vital that the American public become aware of the enormous impact of heart failure, and be better educated regarding the signs and symptoms of the disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in recognition of all the individuals who have devoted time and energy toward increasing public awareness and education on heart failure, designates the week of February 14-18, 2000, as "National Heart Failure Awareness Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENSURE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL WILL REMAIN OPEN AND SECURE TO VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 257

Whereas the 1977 Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal provides that Panama and the United States have the joint responsibility to ensure that the Panama Canal will remain open and secure, and provides that each signatory, in accordance with its constitutional processes, shall defend the Canal against any threat to its neutrality and shall have the right to act against threats against the peaceful transit of vessels through the Canal;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces have depended upon the Panama Canal for rapid transit in times of global conflict, including during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Persian Gulf War;

Whereas the common interests of Panama and the United States have produced close relations between the two nations and a shared interest in protecting the Canal and its operations;

Whereas the passage of Panama Law Number 5 and the port facilities lease agreements have created concern about the future security of the Canal and its continued unfettered operations;

Whereas Panama does not have an army, navy, or air force, and the national police capabilities are inadequate to defend the Canal against terrorism from internal or external sources;

Whereas occupation, damage, or destruction of this crucial naval choke point would be catastrophic to the United States, its allies, and the world;

Whereas the Canal has influenced world trade patterns, spurred growth in developed countries, and has been a primary impetus for economic expansion in developing countries;

Whereas the Panama Canal remains a vital economic and strategic asset to the United States, its allies, and the world; and

Whereas 53 percent of Canal traffic originates or ends at United States port facilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) any attack on or against the Panama Canal by any country will be considered an act of war against the United States;

(2) the President should, prior to June 1, 2001, negotiate security arrangements with

2001, negotiate security arrangements with the Government of Panama that will protect the Canal and ensure that the Canal remains open, secure, and neutral, consistent with the Panama Canal Treaty, the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, and the resolutions of ratification thereto; and

(3) the President should consult with the leadership of both Houses of Congress and with the chairmen and ranking members of the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of this resolution.

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I rise to propose a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the responsibility of the United States in guaranteeing the security and passage of vessels through the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal Treaty and the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal were a battle fought and lost before my time in the Congress of the United States. However, we still have an obligation to the world, our allies, and the people of the United States to ensure that the Panama Canal will remain open, secure, and neutral in providing safe passage to vessels of all nations.

These treaties with Panama gave the United States the option of continuing our presence in Panama beyond 2000. This option must be exercised! The United States needs to retain a presence in Panama to ensure a measure of power projection capability in an area of vital national interest to our economy, our freedoms, and our way of life.

Mr. President, this extension of our presence in Panama is also consistent with the intent of Congress. The 1979 Panama Canal Act, which incorporated the treaty into United States law, included a sense of the Congress resolution that the "best interests of the United States require that the President enter into negotiations with the Republic of Panama for the purpose of arranging for the stationing of United States military forces after the termination of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977."

Panama agreed to these terms in 1979. Since this time, both sides have been working on an agreement to define our future presence, but progress on this effort stalled in early 1998.

The current administration's policy in the region is a legacy of missed opportunities, including their failure to negotiate a continued United States presence in Panama. There exists a dire need for a stabilizing presence which the United States has brought to the region since World War II. Although the traditional threat of a foreign naval attack on the Canal has virtually disappeared, the United States still needs to be able to project military power in the region. The unprecedented upsurge in political instability and state-sponsored terrorism that the United States now faces makes it necessary to provide rapid troop and logistical transit through the Canal. The need to conduct surveillance or to

pursue actual and potential adversaries also requires immediate access to the Canal. Such possibilities make it essential that the United States retain a measure of conventional military presence in the region.

There are many other reasons for the United States to retain a presence in Panama: First, the United States conducts a number of humanitarian and civil-military programs throughout the region. These missions have been greatly benefitted in the past with lower transportation costs and greater efficiency afforded by centralized logistics within the region. Second, as we all know, Panama is located in the center of a major drug transit corridor. Anti-drug operations will continue to be a critical feature of United States policy in the region. Third, with the issue of military readiness, the Jungle Operations Training Center at Fort Sherman provided unequaled facilities for training in low-intensity warfare. Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Frederick C. Smith stated that this and other sites "will be difficult to replicate elsewhere." Last, 65 to 80 percent of the Panamanian people favor United States involvement in the region.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we need to send a decisive message to the current administration to renew negotiations for security arrangements and a continued United States presence in the region. And the United States Government should make it clear to the world that the Panama Canal will remain free, open, and neutral, and any indications to the contrary will be considered as an act of war against the people of the United States. •

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 12, 2000 AS "NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK"

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, of Oregon, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 258

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to

counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas over 300 communities in 33 states and more than 6,800 business locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas over 35,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist;

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 12 through March 18, 2000 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in sponsoring a resolution designating the week beginning March 12, 2000 as "National Safe Place Week." This resolution supports the successful Project Safe Place program and encourages its growth. This resolution promotes a program that improves the quality of life for young people across the nation without depleting social service funds or instituting new government programs whose success is unsure. Project Safe Place makes use of programs already in place, seeks to bring families together by helping them resolve their conflicts, and does not reach into the taxpayer's pocket.

The National Network for Youth estimates that more than two million young people run away from home each year. Increasing numbers of teens and even children are also being turned away from their homes by disinterested or frustrated parents. On the street, these youth are likely to resort to using drugs, prostitution and other criminal behavior or survive. They are more vulnerable to physical or sexual violence, and they are more likely to commit suicide. Without help, their future is bleak and frightening.

Project Safe Place is designated to assist young people and families who face difficult situations. The problems vary from one individual to the other. Some young people ask Safe Place for assistance because they frequently find themselves in hour-long screaming matches with their parents. Others go because they are beaten and mentally