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H. CON. RES. 67

Expressing the sense of the Congress relating to the Taiwan Relations Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2001

Mr. ANDREWS (for himself, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. RILEY, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress relating to the Taiwan Relations Act.

Whereas for more than 50 years a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;

Whereas Taiwan has demonstrated an improved record on human rights and a commitment to democratic ideals of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and free and fair elections routinely held in a multiparty system, as evidenced on March 18, 2000, by the election of Mr. Chen Shui-bian as Taiwan's new president;

Whereas April 10, 2001, will mark the 22d anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96–8), which codified in public law the basis for continued

commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan continues to experience a threat of missile attack across the Taiwan Strait as demonstrated in March 1996 when missiles were launched near its shores during military exercises by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the defense modernization and weapons procurement efforts by the People's Republic of China, as documented in a December 18, 2000, report by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to Public Law 106–113 on the security situation in the Taiwan Strait, could threaten cross-strait stability and United States interests in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States that Taiwan maintains adequate forces to help maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act provides explicit guarantees that the United States will make available to Taiwan defense articles and services necessary in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas Congress and the President are committed by section 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act to determine the nature and quantity of Taiwan's legitimate self-defense needs;

Whereas in recent discussions between the United States and Taiwan on Taiwan's defense needs, Taiwan clearly articulated its requirement for naval-based defense systems such as diesel submarines, P–3 surveillance aircraft, ad-

vanced air-launched missiles, and Taiwan's coverage under the proposed Theater Missile Defense System;

Whereas a recent Department of Defense review of Taiwan's defense requirements concluded that in view of recent missile deployment on the Chinese coast facing Taiwan the Aegis system should be released to Taiwan; and

Whereas in his January 17, 2001, confirmation hearing as Secretary of State, General Colin Powell stated that "[W]e will stand by Taiwan and will provide for the defense needs of Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act and subsequent communiques": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should reaffirm its com-
4 mitment to the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law
5 96–8) and the specific guarantees for the provision
6 of legitimate defense articles to Taiwan contained
7 therein;

8 (2) the President should seek from the leaders
9 of the People's Republic of China a public renunci-
10 ation of any use of force, or threat to use force,
11 against Taiwan; and

12 (3) the executive branch should recognize Tai-
13 wan's significant defense needs and therefore ap-
14 prove the sale to Taiwan of advanced weapons sys-
15 tems that are legitimately needed for defensive pur-

- 1 poses, in strict accordance with section 3(b) of the
- 2 Taiwan Relations Act.

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