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Commending the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China for their persistence, devotion to duty, sacrifice, and success in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United States of the crew of the Navy EP-3E ARIES II aircraft who had been detained in China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2001

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China for their persistence, devotion to duty, sacrifice, and success in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United States of the crew of the Navy EP-3E ARIES II aircraft who had been detained in China.

Whereas, on March 31, 2001, two fighter aircraft of the People's Republic of China intercepted a United States Navy EP-3E ARIES II maritime patrol aircraft on a routine reconnaissance mission in international airspace over the China Sea;

Whereas one of the two Chinese aircraft collided with the United States aircraft, jeopardizing the lives of its 24 crewmembers, causing serious damage, and forcing the United States aircraft commander, Navy Lieutenant Shane Osborn, to issue a “MAYDAY” distress call and perform an emergency landing at a Chinese airfield on Hainan Island;

Whereas, in violation of international norms, the Government of the People’s Republic of China detained the United States aircrew for 11 days, initially refusing the requests of United States consular and military officials for access to the crew; and

Whereas the persistence and devotion to duty of the members of the United States mission in the People’s Republic of China resulted in the release of all members of the United States aircrew on April 12, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate hereby commends the
 2 members of the United States mission in the People’s Re-
 3 public of China, and other responsible officials of the De-
 4 partments of State and Defense, for their outstanding per-
 5 formance in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United
 6 States of the crew of the Navy EP-3E ARIES II aircraft.

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