

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR
THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESI-
DENTIAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 18, 2000,
AND REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES POL-
ICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

MARKUP

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

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**CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN
FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 18,
2000, AND REAFFIRMING THE UNITED
STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
Washington, D.C.,

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:13 p.m., Hon. Doug Bereuter [Chairman of the Subcommittee] presiding.

Mr. BEREUTER. Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific meets in open session to consider a resolution. May I say, how much I appreciate my colleague, Tom Lantos, the Ranking Member of this Subcommittee?

The clerk will read House Concurrent Resolution 292—Congratulating the people of Taiwan on the recent elections.

CLERK. COOKSEY. House Concurrent Resolution 292, a 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—

Mr. BEREUTER. Without objection, further reading of the resolution will be dispensed with, printed in the record in full, and open for amendments.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Mr. BEREUTER. This resolution was introduced by the Majority Leader to congratulate the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of their presidential election on March 18. Indeed, this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another elected leader in the very long history of Chinese society, and, of course, it marks a change in the party affiliation from the current leadership of 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, this election clearly demonstrates that democracy works in China and that the Chinese people yearn

for it and would 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 furthering democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries, and it reaffirms U.S. policy toward Taiwan as set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act. In this regard, the resolution appropriately expresses the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China (PRC) should abandon its present provocative threats against Taiwan and that the PRC should undertake steps that would lead to substantive dialogue, including a renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan and the encouragement of democracy, to the rule of law, and to the protections 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 that it appears again, to a certain degree, to be extending the offer for a renewed dialogue. It is an offer which I hope is presented in good faith. Across the strait, President-elect Chen and others in Taipei are also calling for a renewed dialogue with the PRC and are already adopting the kind of responsible, statesman-like policies, or at least rhetoric at this point, that could expand and accelerate the dialogue. As you know, the inauguration isn't until May 20th.

I would like to point out to the Subcommittee Members that this resolution is the product of input from Majority and Minority members, and that a similar resolution with this bipartisan language is being introduced in the Senate. Our colleague, Mr. Lantos, and others have made very helpful suggestions which, by the way, have been accepted by the Majority Leader.

I want to express my appreciation for the interest and support of Mr. Lantos, the distinguished gentleman from California, for facilitating the prompt consideration of this resolution and for his unwavering support for human rights and democracy in East Asia and throughout the world through his leadership on the Human Rights Caucus. I turn to him for any comments he may wish to make at this point. Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and let me fully reciprocate all of your very gracious comments. I am in full support of the resolution. I think it is a carefully crafted resolution and I hope that it will get overwhelming, if not unanimous support when we take it to the floor.

I think it is important in dealing with China to understand, as I know both you and our friend from California, Mr. Rohrabacher, fully understand, that all of us view China as one of the great civilizations on this planet. There is nothing that we would like to see more than increasingly harmonious and constructive and growing relations with China, and in this instance, the example of Taiwan, in having developed one of the most remarkable economic success stories of the last period, while simultaneously transforming itself from an authoritarian society to a full-fledged political democracy, is one of the great success stories of the post-World War II era. It is a remarkable phenomenon.

When we support Taiwan and when we congratulate Taiwan, the president-elect of Taiwan, we do so in a very genuine fashion. There are no second thoughts behind our congratulations. You remember the old story of the two psychiatrists meeting on the street, and one is telling the other, "Hello," and the second psychiatrist responding, "Hello." Then they walk on, and then they both stop and turn around and say, "I wonder what he meant by that."

We mean by this exactly what we are saying. We are congratulating the people of Taiwan for having achieved an incredible economic success story and for having built a political democracy. Now, I think I speak for both you and Mr. Rohrabacher and myself, this is what we all want. This is what we all want in Cuba. That is what we all want everywhere.

This is not an anti-China statement, it is a statement congratulating the people of Taiwan and hoping the people of China will move in a similar direction.

I think it is very important for the people who are in charge in Beijing now to fully understand that whenever we express views supportive of democracy, this is not a hidden slap at them. When, several years ago, I introduced a resolution ordering the State Department to issue a visa to President Lee of Taiwan, it was not an anti-Chinese move, it was a move recognizing that we, as a free society, should allow distinguished graduates of our own distinguished universities to visit the United States. That is not a subversive thought. It is not anti-anybody.

So, I want to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for your support of this resolution. I am very pleased to support the resolution, and I commend the Majority Leader for introducing it.

I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Lantos. I believe the Majority Leader would welcome co-sponsorships, and I intend to add my name if he will have it. Perhaps the two gentlemen here would also like to.

Are there further comments? The gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Lantos, for that very generous set of remarks. Again, we often have disagreements, Mr. Lantos and I go at it every now and then, but one of the great things that we have got going for us here in America, that we want to share with everybody, is the fact that we all have a common commitment to freedom and liberty and justice, and treating people decently. That overpowers anything where we could disagree, and most of our disagreements are just basically on interpretations and not anything fundamental, and on this resolution, I think it is exemplified by this resolution, by the fact I believe it will get unanimous—at least bipartisan, if not unanimous support.

The people of Taiwan, they have just gone through a major historic event, and the Republic of China on Taiwan is now demonstrating that democracy will work within the context of a Chinese culture, and China being such an important civilization, that this is a powerful historic statement. So we applaud this resolution of what will applaud and I am sure does applaud, we applaud the courage of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan in this

free election. They faced down threats, they faced down intimidation by an unelected regime on the mainland of China, and they came through this belligerency, as I say, with strength and courage of conviction, and held their elections, and their election was a model for many people in the developing world.

The people of Taiwan, in fact, by having this free election in the midst of this type of intimidation and belligerence on the part of the mainland, have inspired all people who believe in liberty and justice and democracy throughout the world. It is really an incredible inspiration.

I wonder how many people in our country, who sometimes don't even go out and vote, shouldn't take note that here we have people who are going out and voting in the most severe of situations, where people are threatening to do them harm if they actually went through with this democratic election. So, again, their courage has not only served themselves, but served the cause of human freedom by inspiring other people throughout the world, and serves as a model for developing countries, and, also, what we have seen now serves as a model for the mainland.

The people on the mainland of China must be asking themselves now, "Why can't we have a say in directing our own destiny through a free election?" This is the first time in history that a Chinese government will change, will transfer power from one group of people to another based on the wishes of the people expressed through a free election.

This is a model for the mainland of China. They have got prosperity, they have got freedom, and they have got a social cohesion on Taiwan that would serve well on the mainland of China if they only gave free government a chance.

So, I join you, Mr. Chairman, and join Mr. Lantos in this piece of legislation. We congratulate President Lee for the good job that he has done on Taiwan in these last 5 years, and we wish good luck and best wishes to President-elect Chen, and we are with the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan and all people who believe in democracy. Thank you.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. It is indeed, as mentioned, the first time that an elected Chinese government has given way to another elected Chinese government.

Dr. Cooksey, we are about to go to the amendatory process, if amendments are in order, so, if you do have an opening statement, this would be the time to present it. Would you care to make any comments?

Dr. COOKSEY. Just very briefly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to associate my remarks with several of the remarks of Mr. Rohrabacher. Lee Teng-hui had done a great job, I think, as the President, and he was really the first one that brought China—Taiwan or Nationalist China to some form of a democracy, and that has really been in recent years. So they are not too many years ahead of the PRC, but they were there, they have done a lot of the right things.

I happen to have met President-elect Chen Shui-bian last August. He is a very bright guy; he is well-educated. He was not considered a serious candidate when I met him, but I think he is a capable person, and, most importantly, he was elected through a

free and open democratic process. I am pleased to see that his vice president is a woman, and, hopefully, we can make that much progress in this democracy sometime in the not too distant future, to elect a female vice president in this country.

I have confidence that the Nation of Taiwan will survive. I understand the desire of a lot of people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to have one China, and I think that is a decision to be made by the Chinese people. I think it is a decision to be made through a democratic process, again, and not through belligerence and saber-rattling. There is a tendency to do that in that country, as we do in this country too much, when there are political campaigns going on.

But, again, my congratulations to the President-elect, Mr. Chen Shui-bian and to his Vice President, Annette Hsiu-lu.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEREUTER. Dr. Cooksey, thank you very much. If there is no further introductory comment from Members, the resolution is open for amendment at any point. Are there amendments to be offered?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. If there are no amendments, and, apparently there are not, the question occurs on agreeing to the resolution. As many as in favor will say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. As many as opposed will say no.

[No noes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The ayes have it, and the resolution is agreed to without objection. The staff is authorized to make technical, grammatical, and conforming changes to the text just agreed to.

I thank my colleagues for their attendance at this mark-up, and I want them to know that it is my understanding that it is the intention of the International Relations Committee to mark-up this resolution tomorrow morning at the conclusion of the Committee's oversight hearing on U.S. policy toward Iraq and to mark-up another resolution coming from the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee.

With that, I thank my colleagues again, and the Subcommittee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:19 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MARCH 22, 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.

Congressman Sherrod Brown
Statement at HIRC Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific Markup
Resolution to Congratulate President-Elect Chen Shui-bian
and Vice President-Elect Annette Lu
March 22, 2000

The election of Democratic Progressive Party's Chen Shui-bian and Annette Lu is truly a historical event with profound and moving implications for Taiwan's people. The race was more than a race between candidates. It was a race between the people of Taiwan and the Beijing leadership, signifying the persistence of the people of Taiwan's commitment to democratic ideals despite Beijing's pressures to the contrary. I would like to extend my congratulations to the people of Taiwan in their success in conducting a free and fair election.

On March 15, only three days before the election, the Premier of the People's Republic of China, Zhu Rongji, held a news conference which intensified China's threats of violence if Taiwan were to elect a pro-independence candidate and move away from the PRC's "one China" policy. This act was only the latest demonstration of China's attempts to corrupt the Taiwanese democratic process. But as a sign of desire for political change and faith in democracy, the voters of Taiwan overcame any fears of foreign threats and elected a candidate they felt would best lead Taiwan into the 21st century.

I applaud Chen's immediate overtures to improve the situation with China. Already, he has invited China's President Jiang Zemin to visit Taiwan, and he has suggested an abolishment of Taiwan's ban on direct trade with China.

Beijing must now exercise restraint and start accepting the reality that there are two sovereign countries facing the Taiwan Strait.

The United States should support the strides Taiwan's new leadership is making toward establishing a peaceful Taiwan and toward making it absolutely clear that the issues between China and Taiwan must be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan.

I had the pleasure of meeting Chen Shui-bian last April. He is a man of great abilities and representative in many ways of modern Taiwan, and I am confident that his administration will provide the necessary leadership in these sensitive times. I look forward to working with him in improving relations between the United States and Taiwan.