

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2531

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities
to China.

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 “Radio Free Asia Act
5 of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Government of the People’s Republic of
9 China systematically controls the flow of information
10 to the Chinese people.

1 (2) The Government of the People’s Republic of
2 China demonstrated that maintaining its monopoly
3 on political power is a higher priority than economic
4 development by announcing in January 1996 that its
5 official news agency Xinhua, will supervise wire serv-
6 ices selling economic information, including Dow
7 Jones-Telerate, Bloomberg, and Reuters Business,
8 and in announcing in February of 1996 the “In-
9 terim Internet Management Rules”, which have the
10 effect of censoring computer networks.

11 (3) Under the May 30, 1997, order of Premier
12 Li Peng, all organizations that engage in business
13 activities related to international computer
14 networking must now apply for a license, increasing
15 still further government control over access to the
16 internet.

17 (4) Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of
18 America, as a surrogate for a free press in the Peo-
19 ple’s Republic of China, provide an invaluable source
20 of uncensored information to the Chinese people, in-
21 cluding objective and authoritative news of in-coun-
22 try and regional events, as well as accurate news
23 about the United States and its policies.

1 (5) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts only
2 5 hours a day in the Mandarin dialect and 2 hours
3 a day in Tibetan.

4 (6) Voice of America currently broadcasts only
5 10 hours a day in Mandarin and 3½ hours a day
6 in Tibetan.

7 (7) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America
8 should develop 24-hour-a-day service in Mandarin,
9 Cantonese, and Tibetan, as well as further broad-
10 casting capability in the dialects spoken in Xinjiang
11 and other regions of the People's Republic of China.

12 (8) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, in
13 working toward continuously broadcasting the Peo-
14 ple's Republic of China in multiple languages, have
15 the capability to immediately establish 24-hour-a-day
16 Mandarin broadcasting to that nation by staggering
17 the hours of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America.

18 (9) Simultaneous broadcasting on Voice of
19 America radio and Worldnet television 7 days a
20 week in Mandarin are also important and needed ca-
21 pabilities.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR IN-**
2 **CREASED FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE ASIA**
3 **AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTING TO**
4 **CHINA.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO
6 FREE ASIA.—

7 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 There are authorized to be appropriated for “Radio
9 Free Asia” \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and
10 \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.

11 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

12 (A)(i) Of the funds under paragraph (1)
13 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
14 1998, \$8,000,000 is authorized to be appro-
15 priated for one-time capital costs.

16 (ii) Of the funds under clause (i),
17 \$900,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
18 additional advanced editing equipment.

19 (B) Of the funds under paragraph (1),
20 \$1,200,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
21 each such fiscal year for additional personnel to
22 staff Cantonese language broadcasting.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR
24 INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING TO CHINA.—In addition
25 to such sums as are otherwise authorized to be appro-
26 priated for “International Broadcasting Activities” for fis-

1 cal years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be ap-
2 propriated for “International Broadcasting Activities”
3 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$7,000,000 for fiscal
4 year 1999, which shall be available only for enhanced
5 Voice of America broadcasting to China.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO
7 CONSTRUCTION.—

8 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
9 addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to
10 be appropriated for “Radio Construction” for fiscal
11 years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be ap-
12 propriated for “Radio Construction” \$10,000,000
13 for fiscal year 1998 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year
14 1999, which shall be available only for construction
15 in support of enhanced broadcasting to China.

16 (2) LIMITATION.—Of the funds under para-
17 graph (1) authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
18 year 1998, \$3,000,000 is authorized to be appro-
19 priated to facilitate the timely augmentation of
20 transmitters at Tinian, Marshall Islands.

21 (d) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be
22 appropriated for “International Broadcasting Activities”,
23 the Director of the United States Information Agency and
24 the Board of Broadcasting Governors shall seek to ensure
25 that the amounts made available for broadcasting to na-

1 tions whose people do not fully enjoy freedom of expres-
2 sion do not decline in proportion to the amounts made
3 available for broadcasting to other nations.

4 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

5 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, in consultation with the Board of Broadcast-
7 ing Governors, the President shall prepare and transmit
8 to Congress a report on a plan to achieve continuous
9 broadcasting of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America to
10 the People's Republic of China in multiple major dialects
11 and languages.

