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S. RES. 238

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding human rights conditions in
China and Tibet.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 1, 1998

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the
following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Re-
lations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding human rights
conditions in China and Tibet.

Whereas President Clinton will be the first United States
head of state to visit China since the 1989 crackdown on
the pro-democracy movement at Tiananmen Square;

Whereas according to the State Department's China Country
Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996, "The Gov-
ernment continues to commit widespread and well docu-
mented human rights abuses, in violation of internation-
ally-accepted norms, stemming from the authorities' in-
tolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence or
inadequacy of laws protecting basic freedoms.";

Whereas the symbolism of the official arrival ceremony which
will take place in Tiananmen Square could be interpreted

as a message to the Chinese people that will override anything the President might say about human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas specific human rights preconditions should have been set forth before setting the date for the President's visit; and

Whereas the President can still make important human rights points during his visit to Beijing: Now, therefore, be it

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

2 (1) at the upcoming United States-China summit the President should—

3 (A) secure from China's leaders a pledge
4 to remove by a certain date the names on an
5 official reentry blacklist, which now contains the
6 names of more than fifty Chinese citizens living
7 in the United States who cannot return to
8 China because of their peaceful advocacy of
9 greater rights and freedom; and
10

11 (B) visit family members of victims of the
12 1989 massacre, many of whom still suffer from
13 political harassment, discrimination or persecution; and
14

15 (2) in the context of the upcoming United
16 States-China summit, the President should urge the
17 Chinese leaders to—

1 (A) engage in a meaningful dialogue with
2 the Dalai Lama with the aim of establishing
3 genuine cultural and religious autonomy in
4 Tibet;

5 (B) revise China's vague, draconian secu-
6 rity laws, including the provisions on "endan-
7 gering state security" added to the criminal
8 code in March 1997;

9 (C) release unconditionally all imprisoned
10 political, religious, and labor activists detained
11 for their peaceful, nonviolent involvement in
12 public protests;

13 (D) review the sentences of more than
14 2,000 convicted so-called "counterrevolution-
15 aries" with a view towards granting full am-
16 nesty and releasing those convicted solely for
17 exercising their internationally recognized rights
18 of free speech and association, especially since
19 the crime of "counterrevolution" has itself been
20 abolished;

21 (E) encourage greater cooperation by the
22 Chinese government with the United Nation's
23 human rights mechanisms and greater trans-
24 parency in China's legal and detention system;

1 (F) ease religious repression by abolishing
 2 the requirement that all religious sites register
 3 with the official Religious Affairs Bureau and
 4 implementing the 1994 recommendations of the
 5 United Nations Special Rapporteur on Reli-
 6 gious Intolerance;

7 (G) lift government mandated quotas on
 8 the number of monks and nuns in monasteries
 9 and nunneries, end the government's current
 10 "reeducation" campaign, and immediately rein-
 11 state all monks and nuns expelled from their
 12 monasteries and nunneries for failing to de-
 13 nounce the Dalai Lama;

14 (H) allow access by credible, independent
 15 human rights or humanitarian organizations to
 16 the nine-year-old boy recognized by the Dalai
 17 Lama in 1995 as the reincarnation of the Pan-
 18 chen Lama; and

19 (I) allow regular, unmonitored access to
 20 Tibet and Xinjiang province of China by inde-
 21 pendent human rights monitors.

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