

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas April 10, 1999, will mark the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, codifying in public law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and democratic Republic of China on Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act was advanced by Congress and supported by the executive branch as a critical tool to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979;

Whereas when the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted, it reaffirmed that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China is based upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China refuse to renounce the use of force against Taiwan;

Whereas the defense modernization and weapons procurement efforts by the People's Republic of China, as documented in the February 1, 1999, report by the Secretary of De-

fense on “The Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait”, could threaten cross-strait and East Asian stability and United States interests in the East Asia region;

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

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act requires timely reviews by United States military authorities of Taiwan’s defense needs in connection with recommendations to the President and Congress;

Whereas Congress and the President are committed by section 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3302(b)) to determine the nature and quantity of what Taiwan’s legitimate needs are for its self-defense;

Whereas Taiwan routinely makes informal requests for defense articles and defense services to United States Government officials, which are discouraged or declined informally by United States Government personnel;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to reject any attempt to curb the provision by the United States of defense articles and defense services legitimately needed for Taiwan’s self-defense;

Whereas it is the current executive branch policy to limit most high-level dialog regarding regional stability with Taiwan senior military officials;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act sets forth the policy to promote extensive commercial relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, and

that policy is advanced by membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas Taiwan completed its bilateral market access negotiations with the United States on February 20, 1998, and all countries which asked to negotiate bilateral agreements with Taiwan have concluded those agreements, although Canada has reopened negotiations on certain products;

Whereas the human rights provisions in the Taiwan Relations Act helped stimulate the democratization of Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan today is a full-fledged, multiparty democracy that fully respects human rights and civil liberties and, as such, serves as a successful model of democratic reform for the People's Republic of China;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to promote extensive cultural relations between the United States and Taiwan, ties that should be further encouraged and expanded;

Whereas any attempt to determine Taiwan's future by other than peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes, would be considered as a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of grave concern to the United States;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute in Taiwan to carry out the programs, transactions, and other relations of the United States with respect to Taiwan; and

Whereas the American Institute in Taiwan has played a successful role in sustaining and enhancing United States relations with Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
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 and the spe-
5 cific guarantees of provision of legitimate defense ar-
6 ticles to Taiwan contained therein;

7 (2) the Congress has grave concerns over Chi-
8 na’s growing arsenal of nuclear and conventionally
9 armed ballistic missiles adjacent to Taiwan, and the
10 effect that the buildup may have on stability in the
11 Taiwan Strait, and United States government offi-
12 cials should continue to raise these concerns with of-
13 ficials of the People’s Republic of China;

14 (3) the President should seek from the leaders
15 of the People’s Republic of China a public renunci-
16 ation of any use of force, or threat to use force,
17 against democratic Taiwan;

18 (4) the President should provide annually a re-
19 port detailing the military balance on both sides of
20 the Taiwan Strait, including the impact of procure-
21 ment and modernization programs underway;

22 (5) the Secretary of Defense should make avail-
23 able to the appropriate committees of Congress the
24 annual military requirements list submitted by Tai-
25 wan;

1 (6) it should be United States policy to encour-
2 age the participation of Taiwan in a high-level re-
3 gional dialog on the best means of ensuring stability,
4 peace, and freedom of the seas in East Asia; and

5 (7) it should be United States policy, in con-
6 formity with the spirit of section 4(d) of the Taiwan
7 Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3303(d)), to publicly sup-
8 port Taiwan's admission to the World Trade Organi-
9 zation forthwith, on its own merits, and consistent
10 with the bilateral market access agreement with the
11 United States.

Passed the Senate April 12, 1999.

Attest:

Secretary.

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 17

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Concerning the 20th Anniversary of the Taiwan
Relations Act.