

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 45

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation
in the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. MACK, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KYL, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

FEBRUARY 25, 1999

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human
rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to

commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet and continues the coercive implementation of family planning policies and the sale of human organs taken from executed prisoners;

Whereas such abuses stem from an intolerance of dissent and fear of civil unrest on the part of authorities in the People's Republic of China and from a failure to adequately enforce laws in the People's Republic of China that protect basic freedoms;

Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct enshrined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the People's Republic of China recently signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the steps necessary to make the covenant legally binding;

Whereas the President decided not to sponsor a resolution criticizing the People's Republic of China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1998 in consideration of commitments by the Government of the People's Republic of China to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and based on a belief that progress on human rights in the People's Republic of China could be achieved through other means;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize a legal democratic opposition, as well as religious leaders, writers, and others who petitioned the authorities to release those arbitrarily arrested; and

Whereas these efforts underscore that the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit serious human rights abuses, despite expectations to the contrary following two summit meetings between President Clinton and President Jiang in which assurances were made regarding improvements in the human rights record of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that at
2 the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights
3 Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the United States
4 should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass
5 a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China
6 to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

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