

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1019

To promote the freedom of information in Vietnam.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To promote the freedom of information in Vietnam.

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 “Freedom of Informa-
5 tion in Vietnam Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Vietnam has failed to meet its obligations
9 as a signatory to the United Nations International
10 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which en-
11 sures that citizens of Vietnam are free “to seek, re-

1 ceive, and impart information and ideas of all
2 kinds”.

3 (2) The Government of Vietnam continues to
4 restrict all forms of media.

5 (3) The Government of Vietnam systematically
6 jams broadcasts by Radio Free Asia and blocks its
7 Internet site.

8 (4) Radio Free Asia is an independent broad-
9 cast service funded by the United States in order to
10 provide objective news and information to the people
11 of countries in Asia whose governments deny the
12 right to freedom of expression and of the press.

13 (5) Unrestricted access to news and information
14 is a check on repressive rule by Vietnam’s authori-
15 tarian regime.

16 (6) The Government of Vietnam is taking active
17 measures to keep its citizens from freely accessing
18 the Internet and obtaining international and domes-
19 tic political, religious, and economic news and infor-
20 mation.

21 **SEC. 3. RADIO FREE ASIA TRANSMISSIONS TO VIETNAM.**

22 (a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the pol-
23 icy of the United States to take such measures as are nec-
24 essary to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by
25 the Government of Vietnam.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 (1) BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

3 In addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized
4 to be appropriated for “Broadcasting Capital Im-
5 provements”, there are authorized to be appro-
6 priated for “Broadcasting Capital Improvements”
7 \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year 2004 to carry out
8 the policy under subsection (a).

9 (2) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPER-
10 ATIONS.—In addition to such sums as are otherwise
11 authorized to be appropriated for “International
12 Broadcasting Operations”, there are authorized to
13 be appropriated for “International Broadcasting Op-
14 erations” \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
15 2004 and 2005 for surrogate radio broadcasting to
16 Vietnam by Radio Free Asia.

17 **SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF PILOT PROJECT TO DEFEAT**
18 **INTERNET JAMMING AND CENSORSHIP BY**
19 **THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT.—There is
21 established in the International Broadcasting Bureau a
22 pilot project to develop and implement a strategy to com-
23 bat State-sponsored Internet jamming and persecution of
24 persons who use the Internet by the Government of Viet-
25 nam.

1 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY.—Of the amounts au-
2 thORIZED to be appropriated for the Broadcasting Board
3 of Governors for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005,
4 \$1,700,000 for fiscal year 2004 and \$1,600,000 for the
5 fiscal year 2005 is authorized to be made available to
6 counter the jamming of the Internet in Vietnam.

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