

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 33

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

Whereas according to the April 1, 2004, report by the Department of State entitled U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act Report, “The United States has strong interests in the protection of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions throughout the world. The Hong Kong people share many values and interests with Americans and have worked to make Hong Kong a model of what can be achieved in a society based on the rule of law and respect for civil liberties”;

Whereas according to section 103(3) of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5713(3)), “The United States should continue to treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the United Kingdom and, after June 30, 1997, should treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the People’s Republic of China with respect to economic and trade matters”;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has frustrated the gradual and orderly process toward universal suffrage and the democratic election of the legislature and chief executive in Hong Kong as envisioned by the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR; and

Whereas on April 6, 2004, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China declared itself, as opposed to the people of Hong Kong, the final arbiter of democratic reform and, on April 26, 2004, declared that universal suffrage would not apply to the election of the third Chief Executive in 2007 or to the election of all members of the fourth Legislative Council in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That Congress—

4 (1) declares that the people of Hong Kong
 5 should be free to determine the pace and scope of
 6 constitutional developments; and

7 (2) calls upon the President of the United
 8 States to—

9 (A) call upon the People's Republic of
 10 China, the National People's Congress, and any
 11 groups appointed by the Government of the
 12 People's Republic of China to guarantee that
 13 revisions of Hong Kong law reflect the wishes
 14 of the people of Hong Kong as expressed
 15 through universal suffrage and a democratically
 16 elected legislature and chief executive;

17 (B) declare that the lack of movement to-
 18 wards universal suffrage and a democratically
 19 elected legislature in Hong Kong is contrary to

1 the vision of democracy set forth in the Basic
 2 Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative
 3 Region and in the Agreement between the Gov-
 4 ernment of the United Kingdom of Great Brit-
 5 ain and Northern Ireland and the Government
 6 of the People's Republic of China on the Ques-
 7 tion of Hong Kong, done at Beijing, December
 8 19, 1984 (the Sino-British Joint Declaration of
 9 1984); and

10 (C) call upon the Standing Committee of
 11 the National People's Congress to guarantee
 12 that the Hong Kong Government develop and
 13 implement a plan and timetable to achieve uni-
 14 versal suffrage and the democratic election of
 15 the legislature and chief executive of Hong
 16 Kong as provided for in the Basic Law of the
 17 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, pro-
 18 mulgated on July 1, 1997.

Passed the Senate June 22, 2004.

Attest:

Secretary.

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