

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has the support of the local prosecution team, the local government, the Attorney General of the United States, the State Department, and the White House. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that justice be served. I urge passage of this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 132, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution relating to the trial of Martin Pang for arson and felony murder."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of H. Con. Res. 132, the measure just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REGARDING TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 212) endorsing the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 212

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress endorses the adoption by the European Parliament on July 18, 1996, of resolution supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations, which is substantially as follows:

"The European Parliament,
—having regard to Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union,

"(A) satisfied with the current state of Taiwan's democracy and Taiwan's respect for the principles of justice, human rights and fundamental freedom;

"(B) welcoming the fact that the elections in Taiwan were conducted democratically and peacefully despite the overt aggression and provocation by the People's Republic of China;

"(C) having regard to Taiwan's wish to participate in international aid to developing countries;

"(D) having regard to the significance of developments in the political situation in Taiwan for the whole of East Asia at a geopolitical and economic level and in terms of a policy of stability, security and peace in the Western Pacific region;

"(E) welcoming the attitude of reconciliation displayed by President Lee Tang-hui towards the People's Republic of China and looking forward to a dialogue spanning both sides of the Taiwan Straits;

"(F) convinced that the people of Taiwan ought to be better represented in international organizations than they are at present, which would benefit both Taiwan and the whole of the international community;

"(G) whereas neither the European Union nor any of its Member States have diplomatic relations with the Government of Taiwan, recognizing only the People's Republic of China;

"(H) whereas Taiwan is very important to the European Union and its Member States as a trade partner;

"(I) whereas it is important for the European Union and its Member States to develop their relations with the governments of both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan in an amicable and constructive spirit.

"(J) urging the governments of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to intensify their cooperation;

"(K) stressing that participation by Taiwan in certain international organizations can assist with finding common ground between China and Taiwan and facilitate reconciliation between the two sides;

"(L) regretting the fact that Taiwan at present is prevented from making a full contribution to the United Nations and its agencies, and stressing that, for the efficiency of the United Nations, Taiwan's participation would be desirable and valuable;

"1. Urges:

"(a) the Council and Member States to support Taiwan's attempts to secure better representation than it currently enjoys in international organizations in the fields of human and labour rights, economic affairs, the environment and development cooperation . . .

"(b) the Council and Member States to ask the United Nations to investigate the possibility of setting up a United Nations working group to study the scope for Taiwan to participate in the activities of bodies answerable to the United Nations General Assembly;

"(c) the Council and Member States to encourage the governments of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to intensify their cooperation in a constructive and peaceful spirit;

"(d) the Council to urge the Commission to adopt measures with a view to opening a European Union information office in Taipei;

"(2) Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the Commission."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Congressman BEREUTER, and the ranking minority member, Congressman BERMAN, for their support for House Concurrent Resolution 212. I would also like to commend the chair-

man of the Rules Committee, Mr. SOLOMAN, for drafting the resolution.

On July 18, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that supports Taiwan's efforts at joining the United Nations. House Concurrent Resolution 212 endorses the European Parliament's initiative.

Taiwan is a free democracy, where people can express their thoughts and practice their religious beliefs. Through the long years, it has remained a loyal friend and steadfast ally of the United States.

Taiwan is also one of Asia's economic miracles, featuring a strong and growing economy with less than 1 percent unemployment. It is the type of free and democratic society we need to support in the region and around the world.

It is a stark contrast to the People's Republic of China. The Beijing leadership has repeatedly shown itself over the years to be a brutal dictatorship with little regard for human and religious rights, much less political freedom.

Taiwan's government has repeatedly asked for our help in their quest for their people to have the last word in their own future.

Now it the time to help our friends on Taiwan. We have been waiting far too long to respond to their aspirations and hope.

House Concurrent Resolution 212 is a good step in that direction. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution, but I do have some concerns about it. I do view the resolution as a friendly gesture to Taiwan, and certainly Taiwan deserves to be recognized for the remarkable strides it has made in recent years in transforming itself from an authoritarian system with a decrepit economy into a vibrant and prosperous democracy. I want to simply remind my colleagues that Taiwan has flourished under the status quo in East Asia. I would urge my colleagues to proceed with caution on this measure, on any measure that calls for a change in that status quo.

Having expressed that reservation, Mr. Speaker, I do support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules and the author of this resolution.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, and certainly the ranking member of the committee a committee I spent many, many years on, and we have great admiration and respect for the job that both of these gentlemen do.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a small but significant show of support for one of the great success stories of the late 20th century, and one of the best friends America has: the Republic of China on Taiwan.

My resolution today simply endorses a European Parliament resolution passed on July 24th that urges support for greater participation in international organizations for Taiwan.

The resolution makes note of the great strides Taiwan has made toward democracy in recent years, especially its conduct of free presidential elections this past spring despite overt aggression by Communist China.

The resolution also notes Taiwan's importance as a trading partner, its willingness to participate in international aid and its strong desire to participate in the international community.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is the very least we can do for our friends on Taiwan.

Indeed I can think of no other country that so richly deserves the opportunity to participate more in the international community.

And I would submit that the United States has a special moral obligation to help Taiwan achieve these ends.

As my colleagues know, back during the cold war, we really did not have a more steadfast ally in our struggle against Communism than the Republic of China on Taiwan.

They were integral in stopping the spread of that deadly system in Asia and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Today the cold war is over and our relationship with Taiwan has developed along newer lines as that country has continued to mature and succeed.

For instance, we all are familiar with the great economic success story of this island nation.

A widely impoverished land just 45 years ago, Taiwan has vaulted to being the 19th largest economy in the world and has become the eighth largest trading partner of the United States.

With an economy characterized by low inflation, low unemployment, and a \$12,000 per-capita GNP, Taiwan is nearly on par economically with countries such as Spain and Ireland.

A country on this level deserves greater access to and can contribute much to international economic organizations like the WTO.

And on the political front, this year's Presidential elections have rounded out a democratic transformation, and today Taiwan is marked by free elections, a free press, and respect for human rights and civil liberties.

In so doing, Taiwan has provided an excellent model for the rest of Asia and has proven itself worthy of participation in international political organizations.

That is why this resolution is necessary and why I have been pushing along these lines for several years now.

I am grateful for the support that I received in this endeavor to the chair-

man of the International Relations Committee, Mr. GILMAN, as well as to the many friends of Taiwan, too many to name, on both sides of the aisle.

This is truly a bipartisan measure, and I urge its unanimous adoption.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for his strong supportive arguments. He has been a long-time supporter of Taiwan. We appreciate his participation.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my support for the measure before us today which endorses the European Parliament's support of Taiwan's efforts to join the Community of Nations.

Taiwan has demonstrated its commitment to democracy and its respect for the principles of justice, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. We should commend the Government and people of Taiwan for conducting democratic and peaceful elections in spite of the overt aggression displayed by the People's Republic of China. I join my colleagues from the International Relations Committee in voicing support for Taiwan's efforts to obtain better representation in international organizations, including those bodies answerable to the U.N. General Assembly.

I am hopeful that this resolution will signal important support for Taiwan's inclusion in the Community of Nations, including membership in international organizations.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 212, a long overdue resolution endorsing Taiwan's entry into the United Nations. Entry into the United Nations is based on certain fundamental principles: peace, democracy, and a willingness to join the international family of nations. Over the past several years, Taiwan has clearly shown that it has satisfied these requirements. First, Taiwan recently conducted a democratically held Presidential election—even in the face of overt military aggression and provocation from Mainland China. Second, Taiwan has repeatedly offered to make significant contributions in international aid to developing countries. Finally, Taiwan continues to provide economic and political stability to the Western Pacific region, one of the most strategic areas in the world.

The only thing preventing Taiwan's entry into the United Nations, is the bullying of the authoritarian Chinese regime. It is unconscionable to believe that an undemocratic and repressive nation such as China, the true antithesis of what the United Nations was founded upon, should have the ability to prevent an emerging democracy from joining the community of nations. I urge my colleagues to end this tragic situation and grant Taiwan entry into the United Nations. Pass House Concurrent Resolution 212 as the first step in this process.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, with the approach of Taiwan's National Day, the 85th anniversary of the Republic of China on October 10, 1996, we have a chance to celebrate and applaud Taiwan's spectacular accomplishments during its past 85 years. The Republic of China proudly stands as a model democracy and a major economic power in the world. A great debt is owed its leaders, most notably President Lee Teng-hui. These leaders have created a modern nation out of mod-

est beginnings, and provided other developing nations around the world with an example of the benefits of dynamic economic development and the importance of a commitment to freedom and democracy.

To President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan, and Representative Jason Hu of the Republic of China on Taiwan, we send our congratulations and wish them good luck in everything they do, including their campaign to return to the United Nations and other international organizations.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 212, a concurrent resolution expressing this body's support of Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations.

Since the inception of the United States one-China policy, the United States has effectively severed all formal ties with Taiwan. By doing so, we have denied the existence and legitimacy to the Taiwanese Government and its 21 million citizens. This we have done despite the fact that Taiwan is one of the world's strongest economies, our sixth largest trading partner, and one of our closest Asian associates.

The recent elections conducted peacefully amid overt aggression and provocation from the People's Republic of China, attests to the Taiwanese Government's stability and commitment. Let us make a commitment to grant the government and people of Taiwan dignity and well-deserved opportunity to become viable participants in world affairs. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 212.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my greetings and congratulations to the leaders of Taiwan on the anniversary of their national day. This October 10 marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of our close friend and fellow democracy, the Republic of China. In commemorating this anniversary, I applaud today's passage of House Concurrent Resolution 212, regarding Taiwan's efforts to join the community of nations.

Throughout the past 85 years, the United States has had a strong reciprocal friendship with the Republic of China. When Taiwan needed some help with agricultural projects, U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] stepped in and gave them access to the resources that the farmers needed. Now Taiwan is returning our favor to countries in Africa, helping them to develop better grains and more robust crops. When Taiwan needed help developing manufacturing facilities on the island, United States business provided the support. Now Taiwan companies are helping out here in the United States by working with our manufacturers to develop joint venture projects in America.

The United States is very familiar with the economic advances the Republic of China has made, but many Americans may not be aware of the work the Republic of China has done to transform itself into a true democracy. During the past decade Taiwan has developed a robust multiparty system, open legislative elections, free speech, free press, and judicial oversight. These democratic reforms culminated in an open Presidential election. President Lee Teng-Hui was elected in a contest against three other candidates and more than 74 percent voter participation.

Despite the Republic of China's political and economic maturity, the Republic of China is

still not allowed to be a part of vital international organizations. Congress took the first step today in bringing about a change in this policy.

Without question their economic status and legal system more than qualify them for membership in the World Trade Organization, but the People's Republic of China, which is not nearly as economically stable as the Republic of China, believes it must be admitted first. The 21 million people of Taiwan certainly deserve representation in the United Nations, but again, the People's Republic of China will not allow it. Given America's close relationship with the People's Republic of China, it would appear as though our friendship with Taiwan has been displaced by our concern about the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has begun to take action and today addressed the issue of Taiwan's involvement in the international community with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 212. This resolution "urges the Council and Member States to support Taiwan's attempts to secure better representation than it currently enjoys in international organizations * * *" and " * * * ask the United Nations to investigate the possibility of setting up a United Nations working group to study the scope for Taiwan to participate in the activities of bodies answerable to the United Nations General Assembly * * *."

At the same token, I understand the need to be aware of the actions and decisions of the People's Republic of China. Obviously the 1.5 billion people living under People's Republic of China rule are important. However, I think it is vital that the United States work to see our friends in the Republic of China are duly recognized for their achievements and to make sure that Republic of China's borders are secure. On October 10, when the Republic of China celebrates their 85th anniversary, we here in Congress should remember to congratulate our friends on Taiwan and assure them that our relationship will remain strong. House Concurrent Resolution 212 is one step in the right direction, but more needs to be done.

The October 10 celebration marks the continuance of a longstanding friendship between our two countries, as well as the founding of a nation. Again, I congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of its national day.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the 85th national day of the founding of the Republic of China. Not only for its rapid implementation of democratic policies and reforms but also for its responsiveness to trade imbalances between our two countries should the Republic of China on Taiwan be honored and congratulated on this historic occasion.

One proper way to celebrate the Republic of China's national day is for us to recognize Taiwan's campaign to reenter the United Nations and other international organizations. There really is no reason to deny the Republic of China membership in the United Nations. In my mind, Taiwan's membership in the United Nations is in total conformity with the U.N. principle of universality; will definitely contribute to peace and stability in East Asia and will serve the interests of the United States. Today, we have taken a small step in advancing this campaign by the House adopting House Concurrent Resolution 212, which supports Taiwan's entry into international organizations.

In commemoration of Taiwan's 85th national day, I extend greetings and best wishes to President Lee Teng-Hui, foreign representative, Ambassador Jason Hu. May Taiwan continue to prosper and to one day soon be welcomed back into the community of nations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further requests for time on this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUNDERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 212, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended; and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the measure just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REGARDING PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 515) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the persecution of Christians worldwide, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 515

Whereas oppression and persecution of religious believers around the world has emerged as one of the most compelling human rights issues of the day, in particular the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians persists at alarming levels, and this is an affront to the international moral community and to all people of conscience;

Whereas in many places throughout the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a "religious apartheid" that subjects them to inhumane humiliating treatment, and are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, and killed;

Whereas in some countries proselytizing is forbidden and extremist elements persist unchecked by governments in their campaigns to eradicate Christians and force conversions through intimidation, rape, and forced marriage;

Whereas in several Islamic countries conversion to Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by death and on Islamic court in Kuwait has denied religious liberty to a convert from Islam to Christianity;

Whereas the militant Muslim Government of Sudan is waging what its leader has described as a jihad (religious war) against

Christian and other non-Muslim citizens in the southern part of the country, enforcing Shari'a (Islamic law) against non-Muslim African Sudanese, torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1,000,000 people, and enslaving tens of thousands of women and children;

Whereas today in Sudan a human being can be bought for as little as \$15;

Whereas Christians in China are now experiencing the worst persecution since the 1970's;

Whereas there are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in some form of detention in China than in any other country;

Whereas both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China;

Whereas in recent months, in separate incidents, 3 Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply because of their religious activities;

Whereas 3 Christian leaders in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community;

Whereas severe persecution of Christians is also occurring in North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Indonesia (including East Timor), and in certain countries in the Middle East, to name only a few;

Whereas religious liberty is a universal right explicitly recognized in numerous international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse them the right to meet in private for prayer", declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation, not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly", stating that this is for human beings "their reason for living";

Whereas the National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a Statement of Conscience and Call to Action, subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America, in which they pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and the last Sunday in September each year thereafter, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians, and that day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn and a haven for the oppressed, and has guaranteed freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas historically the United States has in many instances failed to intervene successfully to stop anti-Christian and other religious persecution; and

Whereas in the past the United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious believers and the United