

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ESTABLISHING PEACEFUL AND STABLE RELATIONS ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Straits Exchange Foundation and its distinguished Chairman Dr. Koo Chen-fu for their great efforts toward establishing peaceful and stable relations across the Taiwan Strait.

I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following address given by Dr. Koo at the Meeting of the International Press Institute World Congress and 48th General Assembly on May 18, 1999 regarding future relations between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. I request that Dr. Koo's remarks as well as two reports describing Taiwan's contribution of \$300 million in aid to Kosovar refugees be inserted at this point in the RECORD:

ESTABLISHING PEACEFUL AND STABLE RELATIONS ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT

(Dr. Koo Chen-fu, Chairman)

Honorable Public Opinion Leaders from Both at Home and Abroad, Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentleman: I feel greatly honored to be invited to participate in the annual conference of the International Press Institute held in the Republic of China. This year marks the first occasion that the IPI has held an annual conference of such magnitude in Taipei. Your meeting here is an affirmation of and encouragement by the IPI for the ROC government's efforts in promoting freedom of press over the past two decades and for the entire press of our nation, which has worked diligently to pursue the consistent advancement of the news industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a major issue that is currently confronting our general public: the problem of having too much information, rather than too little. I believe all of the people responsible for Taiwan's media and communication sectors present today are proud to have contributed to this hard-to-achieve status.

On my way to the conference, I was wondering why the prestigious sponsors of the conference invited me to deliver a speech on this occasion. Knowing that a host of prominent personages from all sectors around the world are participating in this grand event, I felt even more apprehensive, until I thought of a privilege I have over all of you: seniority. I am 82 years old and in a society, such as ours, that attaches great respect to elderly people, my age, I suspect, was my ticket to attend this magnificent conference.

The topic I will speak to you about today is unquestionably quite serious, but it is the subject specifically requested by the sponsoring unit of this conference. I promise that I will do my best to be concise and clear about a complex matter.

As you all know, the Republic of China was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1912, after the overthrow of the Ching imperial dynasty. Then in 1949, the People's Republic of China

was established with Chairman Mao Tz Tung as its leader. Thereafter, China has been ruled separately, with the Chinese communists exercising jurisdiction on the mainland; while ROC government exercising jurisdiction in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu. China has not been united for the past half century, and our situation resembles that of North and South Korea. This is a very simple political reality, known and accepted around the world.

Beijing's claim that "there is only one China and Taiwan is part of China, and one China means the People's Republic of China," or "Taiwan is a renegade province of PRC" not only deviates from reality, but completely negates the truth. It is my view that China is now divided, and both Taiwan and the mainland are parts of China and the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are ruled by two distinct political entities, with neither subordinate to the other. What is important is that both sides do not exclude the possibility of future unification of China through the process of peace and democracy, when time and conditions are mature.

At the current stage of development of cross-strait relations, the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), under the authorization of the government, has from the very beginning, stressed several key points. We have insisted on conditions that respect historic facts and the status quo, safeguard the well-being of the people on Taiwan, and normalize cross-strait relations. For humanitarian reasons, the ROC government in 1987 began to allow our people to visit relatives on the mainland and worked effectively to increase mutual understanding and exchanges between the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Then again in 1991, we terminated the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion, clearly manifesting our government's sincerity not to resolve cross-strait problems by force. It was a pragmatic move, as our government took the first step and demonstrated our goodwill to acknowledge the existence of the communist authorities. To help raise the living standards on the Chinese mainland and develop its economy, Taiwan's business sector has invested as much as US\$25 billion across the strait over the last ten plus years, creating a great number of job opportunities for the people on the mainland and contributing remarkably to the expeditious accumulation of foreign exchange reserves for the Chinese mainland over the recent years.

In order to show the sincerity of the ROC government in promoting peaceful and stable cross-strait relations, President Lee Teng-hui made a six-point proposal on normalizing cross-strait relations in April 1995. These points are: 1. use Chinese culture as a base to strengthen exchanges between the two sides; 2. enhance economic ties and develop reciprocal and complementary cross-strait relations; 3. participate in international organizations on an equal-footing, thus allowing meetings of leaders from the two sides in appropriate situations; 4. assert peaceful solutions for any disputes which arise; 5. combine the efforts of both sides to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong and Macau and enhance democracy in these two areas; 6. pursue future national unification while respecting that China is currently divided and ruled by different political entities.

President Lee's understanding and perspective have provided direction to SEF's tasks. We hope to establish a peaceful and stable cross-strait relationship step by step, as follows:

First of all, we have made all necessary preparations for the coming of Mr. Wang Dao han, the senior chairman of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). I address him as "senior" because he is eighty-three years old, and I'm a year younger than he is. I am expecting Mr. Wang's visit as one which will renew the channel of constructive discourse we first established during my trip to mainland last October. The SEF will make arrangements for Mr. Wang's "getting to know Taiwan" trip safe and comfortable, so the mainland's leading persons will have a better understanding and knowledge of Taiwan. And, for the above mentioned reasons, I look forward to the Taipei meeting with Mr. Wang, which will be held this autumn, so we can work together to frame a peaceful and mutually beneficial relationship for both sides of the strait.

In addition, we will try to persuade the Beijing authorities to reopen the institutionalized consultations established during the Singapore round of the Koo-Wang talks in April 1993. Regarding substantive issues, which most concern the rights of the people, such as repatriating mainland stowaways and hijackers, solving fishing disputes, and dealing with illegal activities cooperatively, we hope that interim agreements will be signed as soon as possible. These agreements will form a basis from which to expand step by step the content gained from future consultations or important issues concerning both sides.

I am well aware that there are people on the Beijing side who anxiously promote political negotiations and dialogue between the two sides. In fact, just as in the Shanghai meeting last October, I would like to broaden the range of subjects during the talk with Mr. Wang in the upcoming Taipei meeting on whatever issues are of concern. If the meeting is restricted only to talks about issues in a particular area, it will minimize the effect of the agreement we may make. This will not be beneficial for improving relations between the two sides.

The 1993 Singapore agreement was the first agreement which was officially authorized for signature by both governments and was approved by respective elected bodies after separation on each side of the strait. If either of the two parties was not willing to abide by the agreement, then the confidence level for the signing of future agreements will certainly be negatively affected. Over time, we will attain more agreements concerning the people's rights and interests. Thus, we can build mutual confidence through the accumulation of interim agreements. This method gives us the ground work for a solid foundation for peaceful and stable cross-strait relations.

Third, the two sides should gradually develop a confidence building measure (CBM), in order to insure the peace of the Taiwan Strait and the security of the Asia-Pacific region. Beginning in 1991, the two sides set up the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, respectively, to be the institutionalized communication mechanism between the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

two sides. This is the accepted communication channel under the informalized relation between the two sides.

For years, these two organizations have exchanged phone calls and letters to conduct necessary contacts and communication. In 1996, however, the Chinese mainland unexpectedly launched a military threat against Taiwan and unilaterally suspended the functions of the two organizations for more than three years. It is a situation we deeply regret.

Under the influence of democracy and freedom, Taiwan is becoming increasingly liberalized and advanced. Such an environment has exerted a direct impact on the SEF to be more flexible and open, when holding consultations with ARATS. Let me assure you that the ROC government is fully confident and sincere in resolving any political differences between the two sides via consultations. Even so, we will not hold talks with the Chinese mainland under such unfriendly conditions as political inequality, diplomatic interference, and military threat. National security and dignity are what I myself and the SEF personnel constantly must bear in mind, when we exchange contacts with the Chinese mainland. I believe that these two criterias are also the two foremost concerns of the people of Taiwan.

In recent years, I have observed that Beijing has been withdrawing from the position that "we can talk about anything" toward a parochial mentality that "we can only talk about political issues." This confuses us.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on Beijing to return to the consultation table as soon as possible, to establish mutual trust between the two sides through consultations, and to adopt necessary and positive measures to insure the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait.

Fourth, the two sides should expand items and the scope of exchanges and cooperations and treat each other with sincerity through reciprocity, in order to ultimately normalize bilateral relations. During the past 50 years, the two sides have accumulated individual experiences of development that can be exchanged to assist each other. In the past, we have proposed that the two sides conduct exchanges and cooperate in the areas of agriculture, scientific technology, economic development, and rule by law. We have also suggested the two sides deal with the Asian financial crisis together, in order to jointly contribute to the prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Unfortunately, we have not had any positive response from Beijing, to date. In the future, we will continue to encourage and persuade the Chinese mainland to pragmatically respond to our constructive proposals. We will also unfold various cooperation plans with Beijing to increase mutual trust, achieve consensus, and ultimately attain the goal of establishing normalized relations between the two sides.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the past four decades, the ROC has managed to create miracles in economic development and political democratization, under unfavorable natural environments and conditions. Naturally, we wish to achieve more, and it is our hope that we can bridge the gap of the Taiwan Strait in economic and political developments by appropriate interaction and constructive dialogue between the both sides of the Taiwan Strait. This will help us to realize the natural reunification of both sides in a peaceful and democratic way.

At the threshold of the twenty-first century, with the Cold War era ended, I sincerely hope that the Chinese mainland will discard the remnants of the Cold War "zero-sum" thinking and expand their horizons to join us in building a peaceful and stable rela-

tionship for both sides of the Taiwan Strait, under conditions which respect the political status quo of both sides.

As time is pressing, let me finish my speech here. Thank you very much. And I wish all the distinguished participants of this conference health and confirmed success.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING
ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge number of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace in the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide a grant aid equivalent to about US \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care, and education, etc. for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of the Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful homes.

ROC TO DONATE US\$300 MILLION TO HELP
KOSOVAR REFUGEES

Taipei, June 7 (CNA) President Lee Teng-hui announced Monday that the Republic of China will donate US\$300 million to help Kosovar refugees rebuild their homes.

Lee made the announcement at a news conference held after chairing a meeting on the Kosovo problems. The meeting was attended by Vice President Lien Chan, Premier Vincent Siew, Foreign Minister Jason Hu, and Ying Chung-wen, secretary-general of the National Security Council.

Lee said the ROC, as a member of the international community, has consistently been concerned about world affairs and prob-

lems. "We want to play an active role in the world arena and work together with other members of the world society in maintaining world peace," Lee said, adding that the aid to displaced Kosovar refugees is purely based on humanitarianism.

Asked about his view on possible backlash from mainland China, Lee said humanitarian aid to Kosovar refugees is a common goal of all civilized countries.

"Since the two sides of the Taiwan Strait co-exist in the international community, we should make joint efforts to promote international peace and stability," Lee said.

The president urged mainland China to throw support behind the ROC's aid drive, adding that he hopes mainland China will also take concrete steps to assist hundreds of thousands of displaced Kosovar refugees.

Lee's announcement came a day after Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski arrived in Taipei on Sunday for a six-day official visit.

This is the 33-year-old Macedonian prime minister's first trip to the ROC since the two countries forged formal diplomatic ties in January this year.

Macedonia has been burdened by a large number of ethnic Albanian refugees from the neighboring Yugoslav province of Kosovo. (By Sofia Wu)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as we watch the U.S. Women's Soccer Team advance to the final rounds of the World Cup, we are reminded of two teams from our district, High Point Central High School and Ragsdale High School, which both are 1999 North Carolina High School Soccer Champions.

High Point Central captured the 1A/2A North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSSA) Women's Soccer Championship. The Bison ended their season with an outstanding record of 19-3-3. We congratulate Mandi Tinsley, Katie Copeland, Jenny Thomas, Jenni Tensley, Lee Culp, Lindsay Holbrook, Tina Tinsley, Graham Magill, Andrea Brown, Lindsay Husted, Leigh Spencer, Lemeh Horace, Jessica Harrison, Erica Bell, Jennifer Applegate, Sarah Bencini, Jrlly White, Krystion Obie. A few people who helped lead them along the way were Head Coach David Upchurch, Assistant Coach Pete Chumbley, and managers Scott Salter and Robert White. Central's Athletic Director is Gary Whitman.

Ragsdale High School won the NCHSSA Women's 3A State Championship. The Tigers ended their impressive season with a record of 22-2-4. We congratulate Cindy Mullinix, Julia Deaton, Danielle Brown, Jamie Davis, Jordan Allison, Erin Beeson, Brooke Dewitt, Lydia Gibson, Holly Walker, Jen Ryback, Michele Andrejco, Stacy Hopkins, KK Dalrymple, Michelle Pizzurro, Alysha Hall, Laura Stafford, Kellie Dixon, Emily Foster, and manager Sandra Simoes. Contributing to Ragsdale's win was Coach Brian Braswell, Trainer Josh Beaumont and Athletic Director is Mike Raybon.

The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of both these teams for all their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the girls at High Point Central and Ragsdale. Now let's hope