

current owners of small business concerns on or near Tribal Lands.

I would again like to thank Senator JOHNSON and all of the cosponsors of this important legislation to assist our Native American communities. I would also, again, like to thank Congressman UDALL for taking the lead in the House on providing critical assistance for small businesses in Native American communities. I would urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to help us fulfill our commitment to Native American communities.●

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TIBET, THE PANCHEN LAMA, AND THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AND THE DALAI LAMA OR HIS REP- RESENTATIVES

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 252

Whereas Hu Jintao, Vice President of the People's Republic of China and former Party Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region, will visit the United States in April and May of 2002;

Whereas Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was taken from his home by Chinese authorities on May 17, 1995, at the age of 6, shortly after being recognized as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama by the Dalai Lama;

Whereas the forced disappearance of the Panchen Lama violates fundamental freedoms enshrined in international human rights covenants to which the People's Republic of China is a party, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Whereas the use of religious belief as the primary criteria for repression against Tibetans reflects a continuing pattern of grave human rights violations that have occurred since the invasion of Tibet in 1949–50;

Whereas the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001 states that repressive social and political controls continue to limit the fundamental freedoms of Tibetans and risk undermining Tibet's unique cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage, and that repeated requests for access to the Panchen Lama to confirm his well-being and whereabouts have been denied; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to respond positively to efforts by the Dalai Lama to enter into dialogue based on his proposal for genuine autonomy within the People's Republic of China with a view to safeguarding the distinct identity of Tibet and protecting the human rights of the Tibetan people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Vice President Hu Jintao should be made aware of congressional concern for the Panchen Lama and the need to resolve the situation in Tibet through dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives; and

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China should—

(A) release the Panchen Lama and allow him to pursue his traditional role at Tashi Lhunpo monastery in Tibet; and

(B) enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives in order to find a negotiated solution for genuine autonomy that respects the rights of all Tibetans.

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 13th birthday of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy recognized by the Dalai Lama in 1995 as the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest spiritual leader.

As you may know, shortly after the Dalai Lama recognized Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the Panchen Lama in 1995, the Chinese government abducted him with his family. He was 6 years old at the time. Today, the Panchen Lama remains in detention, and his whereabouts are unknown. For the past 7 years repeated requests from both governments and private humanitarian organizations to meet with the boy have been denied. It is intolerable that the Chinese leadership is using this young child in their efforts to tighten their grip on Tibet. On his 13th birthday, he remains one of the world's youngest political and religious prisoners.

Tibetans are persecuted for their religious beliefs. Prior to the Chinese invasion of 1950, Tibet was a deeply religious society. Religion remains an integral part of the daily lives of Tibetans, and it forms the social fabric connecting them to the land. Since the Chinese take over, religious practice and belief have come at a great cost. Over 6,000 monasteries and sacred places have been destroyed by the Chinese. Religious leaders are incarcerated with great frequency. They are forced to perform "reeducation labor," and often subjected to torture, including electric shock, rape, and other serious forms of abuse.

The Chinese Government continues to exert power over Tibetans by requiring monks to sign a declaration rejecting independence for Tibet, rejecting the Panchen Lama, rejecting and denouncing the Dalai Lama, recognizing the unity of China and Tibet, and ignoring the voice of America. Monks who refuse to accept these terms risk expulsion from their monasteries, or possible incarceration. Fleeing is the only other option for Tibetans who refuse to accept these terms. Historically, up to 3,000 Tibetans enter Nepal each year to escape the conditions.

Religious persecution is not the only type of persecution in Tibet. Tibetans are also subject to political imprisonment. A few months ago, I had the honor of meeting with Ngawang Choephel, a former Fulbright scholar who taught at Middlebury College in Vermont, who was imprisoned in 1995. What was his crime, the crime for which his brave mother labored intensively to have him freed? He was arrested and jailed for espionage while filming a documentary on performing arts in Tibet. After serving more than 6 years, he was released on a medical

parole. Regrettably, his story is emblematic of the daily struggles faced by Tibetans.

China has consistently used excessive military force to stifle dissent, which has resulted in untold cases of arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, torture, and execution. Moreover, the Tibetan people are denied the rights to self determination, freedom of speech, assembly, movement, expression and travel, rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Population transfers, environmental degradation, forced abortions and sterilizations, and the systematic destruction of the Tibetan language and culture continue unabated.

The problems in Tibet go beyond continuing human rights violations. As long as the Tibetan people are denied the right to self determination, human rights violations and political unrest will continue. For almost 40 years Chinese oppression in Tibet has been met by resistance. However, despite over four decades of force and intimidation, the Tibetan people have proven again and again that they will not succumb. Until a negotiated settlement is reached, Tibet will remain a contentious and potentially destabilizing issue for China. The only way to settle the question of Tibet is for the Chinese leadership to enter into negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

Both publicly and privately, the Dalai Lama has stated his willingness to negotiate with the Chinese in his own words, "anywhere, anytime, and with no pre-conditions." Thus far, Beijing has refused to even consider talking to him. Despite the fact that the Dalai Lama is respected worldwide as a spiritual leader and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Chinese Communist party leaders continue to eschew dialogue.

Next week, Chinese President Hu Jintao will visit the United States for the first time. Many believe that he will be the next Premier of China. As you may know, Hu Jintao was the Party Secretary in the Tibet Autonomous Region, TAR, from 1988 to 1992. During his tenure as Party Secretary, Hu Jintao made a name for himself as a tough administrator of Beijing's control mechanisms in Tibet, including the use of deadly force against unarmed Tibetan protesters.

Despite Hu Jintao's record as TAR Party Secretary, I, like some Tibetans, remain hopeful that he can play a positive role in the future. Because Hu has direct experience with the sentiments of Tibetans, he could be more responsive to Tibetan interests than past Chinese leaders. On November 9, 2001, Hu told journalists in Berlin, "I have been in Tibet for almost 4 years and I am very familiar with the situation." It is a positive factor that Hu Jintao knows conditions in Tibet from first-hand experience.

In light of his visit, I am introducing a resolution in the Senate calling for

the release of the Panchen Lama. With this action, I am also hoping to see a serious and substantive discussion of the continued human rights violations in China and Tibet. I will continue to communicate these objectives directly to the administration and the Chinese leadership. Specifically, I strongly believe we should urge the Chinese leadership: To release the Panchen Lama and allow him to pursue his traditional role at Tashi Lhunpo monastery in Tibet; and to enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives in order to find a negotiated solution for genuine autonomy that respects the rights of all Tibetans.

Today, across America Tibetans and their supporters are staging events to draw international attention and support for Tibet. This includes five Tibetan men who are biking from the state capitol in St. Paul, MN, to the Chinese Embassy in Chicago. There, they are calling for the release of the Panchen Lama, the second highest leader in Tibetan Buddhism. Today, I ask that the Senate join their cause. Free the Panchen Lama.

I offer my deepest respect and prayers to them and to the countless brave men and women who have lost their lives in the struggle to bring freedom and democracy to Tibet. It is my hope that the United States will be "on the right side of history" by pressing hard for negotiations and a peaceful solution to the Tibetan situation, in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

Finally, I would like to commend the Tibetan people, who under the leadership of the Dalai Lama, have remained steadfast in their commitment to non-violence. While in other parts of the world individuals seeking freedom have employed any means available, including violence and terrorism, the Tibetans have not altered from the path of nonviolence, even while their homeland, their families, their religion, and their culture are decimated. To turn away from the Tibetan people in their hour of need, would send a message to the world that the international community does not care about what is just. I urge Tibetans to stay the course of nonviolence.●

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—REITERATING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE IN EUROPE

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 253

Whereas many countries in Europe are protectors of human rights and have stood as shining examples of freedom and liberty to the world;

Whereas freedom of religion is guaranteed by all Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) participating states;

Whereas the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document declares all participating OSCE States will "unequivocally condemn" anti-Semitism and take effective measures to protect individuals from anti-Semitic violence;

Whereas anti-Semitism was one of the most destructive forces unleashed during the last century;

Whereas there has been a startling rise in attacks on Jewish community institutions in cities across Europe in the last 18 months;

Whereas these violent incidents have targeted youth such as an assault on a Jewish teen soccer team in Bondy, France on 4/11/02 and the brutal beating of two Jewish students in Berlin, Germany, the burning of Jewish schools in Creteil and Marseille, France and even the stoning of a bus carrying Jewish schoolchildren;

Whereas attacks on Jewish houses of worship have been reported in many cities including Antwerp, Brussels, and Marseille and as recently as April 22nd an automatic weapon attack on a synagogue in Charleroi, Belgium;

Whereas the statue in Paris of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, who was the victim of anti-Semitic accusations and became a symbol of this prejudice in the last century, was defaced with anti-Jewish emblems;

Whereas the French Ministry of Interior documented hundreds of crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions in France in just the first two weeks of April 2002;

Whereas the revitalization of European right wing movements, such as the strong showing of the National Front party in France's presidential election, reaffirm the urgency for governments to assert a strong public stance against anti-Semitism, as well as other forms of xenophobia and intolerance;

Whereas some government leaders have repeatedly dismissed the significance of these attacks and attributed them to hooliganism and Muslim immigrant youth expressing solidarity with Palestinians;

Whereas the legitimization of armed struggle against Israeli civilians by some governments voting in the UN Commission on Human Rights has emboldened some individuals and organizations to lash out against Jews and Jewish institutions;

Whereas hostility frustration and disaffection over violence in the Middle East must never be permitted to justify personal attacks on Jewish citizens;

Whereas when governments have raised a strong moral voice against anti-Semitism and worked to promote and implement educational initiatives which foster tolerance, we have seen success; and

Whereas, Congress recognizes the vital historical alliance between nations of Europe and the United States and has high regard for the commitment of our allies to fighting discrimination, hatred, and violence on racial, ethnic or religious grounds,

Resolved, (a) That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress calls upon European governments to—

(1) acknowledge publicly and without reservation the anti-Semitic character of the attacks as violations of human rights; and to utilize the full power of its law enforcement tools to investigate the crimes and punish the perpetrators;

(2) decry the rationalizing of anti-Jewish attitudes and even violent attacks against Jews as merely a result of justified popular frustration with the conflict in the Middle East; and

(3) take measures to protect and ensure the security of Jewish citizens and their institutions, many of whom suffered so grievously in Europe in the past century.

(b) Further, it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) both Congress and the Administration must raise this issue in its bilateral contacts;

(2) the State Department's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights should thoroughly document this phenomenon, not just in Europe but worldwide; and

(3) the Commission on International Religious Freedom should continue to document and report on this phenomenon in Europe and worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—DESIGNATING APRIL 29, 2002, THROUGH MAY 3, 2002, AS "NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 254

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public body and operating on the principles of accountability, parental involvement, choice, and autonomy;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will have received substantial assistance from the Federal Government by the end of the current fiscal year for planning, startup, and implementation of charter schools since their authorization in 1994 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

Whereas 34 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are serving more than 500,000 students in more than 2,431 charter schools during the 2001-2002 school year;

Whereas charter schools can be vehicles for improving student academic achievement for the students who attend them, for stimulating change and improvement in all public schools, and for benefiting all public school students;

Whereas charter schools must meet the same Federal student academic achievement accountability requirements as all public schools, and often set higher and additional goals, to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools assess and evaluate students annually and often more frequently, and charter school student academic achievement is directly linked to charter school existence;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, charter schools routinely measure parental approval, and charter schools must prove their ongoing and increasing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas two-thirds of charter schools report having a waiting list, the average size of such a waiting list is nearly one-half of the school's enrollment, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill another 1,000 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas students in charter schools nationwide have similar demographic characteristics as students in all public schools;