

(6) deplores the ongoing human rights abuses in the People's Republic of China; and
 (7) urges the United States Government and the European Union to cooperatively develop a common strategy to seek—

(A) improvement in the human rights conditions in the People's Republic of China;

(B) an end to the military build-up of the People's Republic of China aimed at Taiwan;

(C) improvement in the export control practices of the People's Republic of China; and

(D) an end to the ongoing proliferation by state-sponsored entities in China of technology related to weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution on the European Union's expressed intent to lift its arms embargo against China.

During the EU-China summit meeting last December, the European Union indicated that it is likely to lift the arms embargo it imposed against China after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Evidently, the "strategic partnership" the EU seeks with China and base economic interests trump the human rights considerations that were the reason for instituting the embargo in the first place. How the EU proceeds on this issue will reveal a great deal about the role it seeks to play in the world.

In helping the Chinese develop their military capabilities, the Europeans see two principal benefits. China's enhanced military prowess would serve as a more effective counterweight to American power, theoretically strengthening the EU's hand in international political and strategic decisions. Additionally, European defense industries stand to gain billions of euros in Chinese contracts which, for EU leaders, seems too good to resist.

Sadly, the EU seems to be giving in to Chinese blackmail. Because China views the continued arms embargo as an international black eye and an embarrassing reminder of the Tiananmen crackdown, it has aggressively lobbied the Europeans to lift it, even saying that their trade relationship will be jeopardized if the embargo remains in place.

It is important to remember the reason for imposing the embargo: China's brutal reaction to the democratic movement in 1989 that resulted in the death of hundreds of Chinese and the imprisonment of thousands more. So, when we consider the future of the embargo it seems self-evident to evaluate the current state of human rights in China today.

Though the government's methods may be more refined than we saw in June 1989, the situation remains bleak. Chinese citizens who attempt to exercise basic rights are dealt with harshly. People are jailed for writing essays. Priests are beaten and abused. Churches are closed, their leaders detained. Birth planning policies are cruelly implemented. The Chinese people are still unable to speak freely, to meet without interference, or to worship in peace.

Although respect for basic human rights is one of the values that define

the Euro-Atlantic tradition, the EU seems ready to discard it at will. It is foolish for them to call on China to improve its human rights record and then talk of rewarding them by lifting the embargo. I cringe to think of the message that sends to the brave Chinese dissidents fighting for democracy.

The EU claims that lifting the embargo will not change the status quo. Its argument is based on the EU's 'Code of Conduct' that lays out minimal standards (including respect for human rights and preservation of regional peace) for EU nations to consider before approving arms sales. There would be no explosion of military sales to China if the embargo is lifted, EU leaders say. But not only is the Code of Conduct ineffective, it is purely voluntary. And if its terms are violated, it is not legally enforceable.

Even if the EU were to strengthen the code of conduct and improve its transparency, I am confident that EU members would ignore its provisions if they deem it economically advantageous. Otherwise, I doubt their defense industries would be as enthusiastic about access to the Chinese marketplace.

There are serious consequences if the EU proceeds down this road. By giving China access to advanced military systems, including surveillance and communication equipment, the EU would be directly responsible for modernizing the Chinese military. On a regional basis, the delicate strategic balance in the Taiwan straits will be altered, and as one Pentagon official states, China will be able to kill Americans more effectively. China's recent threatening moves against Japan will be seen as more dangerous. And whether the EU admits it or not, China will have a greater capability to suppress internal dissent.

This may not matter to Europe. But they should carefully consider the impact this move would have on the transatlantic relationship that they claim to value. I can guarantee that if the EU lifts its arms embargo against China, the Congress will reassess the close defense and intelligence cooperation that the United States has with Europe and work to reverse the liberalization of technology transfers to our European partners. To do otherwise would be irresponsible. If we share advanced technology with the EU which then allows China even limited access to it, our forces in the Pacific are more vulnerable to Chinese misadventure.

Last November, British Foreign Minister Jack Straw told me that the United Kingdom did not want to jeopardize its close defense relationship with the U.S. over the arms embargo issue. Yet, apparently the British believe that this is an instance where it can play the role of a good European, rather than an American partner. I take heart that there are some EU members that still believe in the importance of taking a stand on human rights grounds. Unfortunately, I am

not certain their views can prevail in Brussels.

I am pleased that my distinguished colleague, Senator BIDEN, has joined me in submitting this resolution today, along with Senators BROWNBACK, KYL, CHAMBLISS, and ENSIGN.

President Bush will be traveling to Europe next week, where he will meet with senior European and EU leaders. This resolution states our strong support of the United States arms embargo on China and urges the European Union to maintain its embargo as well. It also urges the President to raise our objections to the EU lifting its embargo and to engage the Europeans during his meetings next week in a discussion on how doing so could adversely affect the transatlantic relationship. It encourages the EU to examine its current arms control policies, close any loopholes, and examine their trade with China in light of serious human rights concerns.

I believe, and it is expressed in the resolution, that this situation presents us with an opportunity to work with the EU to strengthen the transatlantic relationship. By working together actively on a common strategy to improve human rights in China, end the Chinese military build-up against Taiwan, improve Chinese export control practices, and bring an end to the ongoing proliferation by state-sponsored entities in China of technology related to weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, we are more likely to achieve our common goal.

But I am concerned that the strident competitiveness of some senior European leaders and their obsession with hampering America's ability to operate in the world is impacting U.S. national security interests, rather than purely economic or commercial ones. Multipolarity is not a policy goal, it's a recipe for disaster. At what cost is the EU trying to counter American power? In order to play a greater role in the world, they are willing to risk one that is more dangerous.

SENATE RESOLUTION 60—SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN MOLDOVA AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF MOLDOVA TO ENSURE A DEMOCRATIC AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE MARCH 6, 2005, PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 60

Whereas, on August 27, 1991, Moldova declared independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas parliaments were elected in Moldova in free and fair multiparty elections during 1990, 1994, and 1998;

Whereas international observers stated that the May 2003 local elections for mayors and regional councilors, despite scattered reports of irregularities, were generally consistent with international election standards;

Whereas Freedom House, a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to advance the expansion of political and economic freedom, has designated Moldova's political environment as "partly free" and, using a scale of 1 to 7 (with 1 being the most free), assigned a rating of 3 for political rights in Moldova and 4 for civil liberties in Moldova;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, or detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, and candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to potential voters;

Whereas, in a genuinely democratic election, parties and candidates are free to organize supporters and conduct public meetings and events;

Whereas ensuring that parties and candidates enjoy unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis is fundamental to a free, fair, and democratic election;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote and to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote in a manner that is free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas Moldova is scheduled to conduct parliamentary elections on March 6, 2005;

Whereas reports indicate that national and local officials in Moldova are increasing their control and manipulation of the media as the election date approaches;

Whereas there have been widespread reports of harassment of opposition candidates and workers by the police in Moldova;

Whereas other reports indicate that intimidation of independent civil society monitoring groups by authorities in Moldova is occurring on an increasingly frequent basis;

Whereas such actions are inconsistent with Moldova's history of the holding of free and fair elections and raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the authorities in Moldova to conducting free and fair elections;

Whereas the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 6, 2005 will provide a test of the extent to which the Government of Moldova is committed to democracy, free elections, and the rule of law; and

Whereas the holding of truly free and fair elections in Moldova, including a free and democratic campaign preceding an election, are vital to improving the relationship between Moldova and the United States and to the United States providing support for resolution of the Transnistria conflict and for the provision of assistance to Moldova through the Millennium Challenge Account: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Moldova since Moldova declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 27, 1991;

(2) recognizes that a precondition for the full integration of Moldova into the Western community of nations is the establishment of a genuinely democratic political system in Moldova;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Moldova;

(4) encourages all political parties in Moldova to offer genuine solutions to the serious problems that face Moldova, including human trafficking, corruption, unemployment, and territorial issues;

(5) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the people of Moldova to establish full democracy, including the rule of law and respect for human rights;

(6) urges the Government of Moldova to meet its commitments to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for the holding of democratic elections;

(7) urges the Government of Moldova to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on March 6, 2005;

(B) the right to vote for all citizens of Moldova;

(C) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a nondiscriminatory basis; and

(D) the right of opposition candidates and workers to engage in campaigning free of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation; and

(8) pledges its enduring support and assistance to the people of Moldova for the establishment of a fully free and open democratic system that is free from coercion, the creation of a prosperous free market economy, the establishment of a secure independence, and Moldova's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 61—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY AND ITS MEMBERS' VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 61

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association was founded and incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the 26th day of December, 1930;

Whereas the founders of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association possessed the leadership and vision to establish a single voice for the ready mixed concrete industry;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association represents and acts on behalf of the industry before all divisions of government and those public and private organizations whose work affects the ready mixed concrete business;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been a pioneer in the field of concrete technology through groundbreaking research and advanced scientific methods in the practical use and applications of ready mixed concrete;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has gained national distinction by developing innovative breakthroughs in engineering, aggressive market promotion, and its contribution toward the creation of the first undergraduate degree in concrete industry management in the United States;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association leads the concrete industry through its education and certification programs;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association today represents 1,300 producer member companies, both national and multinational, that employ thousands of workers and operate in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association continues today to assist producers in the ready mixed concrete community through the introduction of innovative safety procedures, modern health initiatives, and progressive environmental control programs in an effort to enhance the performance level of the industry; and

Whereas the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association will continue to look toward the future by forging alliances within the ready mixed community, and by becoming more educated in business operations and more knowledgeable about the product and the role of ready mixed concrete in the construction and building of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association for its 75 year history and its contributions to the construction of the infrastructure of the United States, including homes, buildings, bridges, and highways;

(2) recognizes that the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been and will continue to be an invaluable asset in developing the history and character of the United States; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association as an expression of appreciation and for public display at the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's 2005 national convention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 62—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY" AND CELEBRATING AND HONORING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 62

Whereas Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, is the world's first service club and 1 of the largest nonprofit service organizations;

Whereas there are more than 1.2 million Rotary International club members comprised of professional and business leaders in more than 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries;

Whereas the Rotary International motto, "Service Above Self", inspires members to provide humanitarian service, meet high ethical standards, and promote international good will;

Whereas Rotary International funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries;

Whereas in 1985, Rotary International launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio;

Whereas polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988, and the world now stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease;

Whereas Rotary International is the largest privately-funded source of international scholarships in the world and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants;