

articles 79 and 88. It also calls for release of all political prisoners, writers, and bloggers that the only thing they've asked is to have a more open process, to have some civil rights, to have some human rights, to be able to discuss with each other a new way forward.

As Americans, we pride ourselves on being a country that stands by freedom, by liberty, and by justice. And as Members of this United States Congress, we have a responsibility. Other countries are watching us. We have a responsibility to stand up and to take steps and to say enough is enough.

As the Government of Vietnam continues to criminalize individual rights, as it criminalizes basic freedoms, I believe this is an indication that Vietnam is not interested in being a responsible member of the international community. We, the United States, need to examine our economic and our military relationships with Vietnam. We must insist on changes to human rights in that country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for House Resolution 484 to protect the rights and the freedoms of the citizens of Vietnam; and in doing so, we protect the rights and freedoms of every citizen in this world.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I'm prepared, if you're prepared to close, to yield back the balance of my time, and I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Just in closing, I would hope some of these impassioned speakers on behalf of respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law for the people of Vietnam, as meritorious as they are, I hope that they're extended to my native homeland of Cuba as well. May we hear those voices on the House floor calling for those same characteristics for the people of Cuba.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 484. I am proud to cosponsor this important resolution introduced by my good friend, fellow Californian, and co-chair of the Vietnam Caucus, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ. This resolution calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to respect basic human rights and to stop abusing vague national security provisions such as articles 79 and 88 of the Vietnamese penal code, articles which are frequently cited as the justification for the arrest and detention of citizens who peacefully advocate for religious and political freedom.

The use of these draconian laws to silence opposition and maintain one-party control is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to speak out for the activists whose voices have been silenced by the repressive regime in Vietnam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 484, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAIWAN OBSERVER STATUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 17) expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 17

Whereas the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago, Illinois, on December 7, 1944, and entered into force April 4, 1947, approved the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), stating "The aims and objectives of the Organization are to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to . . . meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport";

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the ICAO convened a high-level Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security that endorsed a global strategy for strengthening aviation security worldwide and issued a public declaration that "a uniform approach in a global system is essential to ensure aviation security throughout the world and that deficiencies in any part of the system constitute a threat to the entire global system," and that there should be a commitment to "foster international cooperation in the field of aviation security and harmonize the implementation of security measures";

Whereas, the 37th ICAO Assembly in October 2010 adopted a Declaration on Aviation Security largely in response to the attempted sabotage of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on December 25, 2009, which established new criminal penalties for the use of civil aircraft as a weapon, the use of dangerous materials to attack aircraft or other targets on the ground, and the unlawful transport of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons and related materials, along with extradition arrangements that facilitate cooperation among nations in apprehending and prosecuting those who have undertaken these and other criminal acts;

Whereas, on October 8, 2010, the Department of State praised the 37th ICAO Assembly on its adoption of the Declaration on Aviation Security, but noted that "because every airport offers a potential entry point into this global system, every nation faces the threat from gaps in aviation security throughout the world—and all nations must share the responsibility for securing that system";

Whereas the Taipei Flight Information Region, under the jurisdiction of Taiwan, ROC, covers an airspace of 176,000 square nautical

miles and provides air traffic control services to over 1,350,000 flights annually, with the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport recognized as the 8th and 18th largest airport by international cargo volume and number of international passengers, respectively;

Whereas exclusion from the ICAO since 1971 has impeded the efforts of the Government of Taiwan to maintain civil aviation practices that comport with evolving international standards, due to its inability to contact the ICAO for up-to-date information on aviation standards and norms, secure amendments to the organization's regulations in a timely manner, obtain sufficient and timely information needed to prepare for the implementation of new systems and procedures set forth by the ICAO, receive technical assistance in implementing new regulations, and participate in technical and academic seminars hosted by the ICAO;

Whereas the United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, clearly declared its support for the participation of Taiwan in appropriate international organizations, in particular, on September 27, 1994, with the announcement by the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs that, pursuant to the Review and recognizing Taiwan's important role in transnational issues, the United States "will support its membership in organizations where statehood is not a prerequisite, and [the United States] will support opportunities for Taiwan's voice to be heard in organizations where its membership is not possible"; and

Whereas ICAO rules and existing practices have allowed for the meaningful participation of noncontracting countries as well as other bodies in its meetings and activities through granting of observer status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) meaningful participation by the Government of Taiwan as an observer in the meetings and activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will contribute both to the fulfillment of the ICAO's overarching mission and to the success of a global strategy to address aviation security threats based on effective international cooperation;

(2) the United States Government should take a leading role in garnering international support for the granting of observer status to Taiwan in the ICAO for the purpose of such participation; and

(3) the Department of State should provide briefings to or consult with Congress on any efforts conducted by the United States Government in support of Taiwan's attainment of observer status in the ICAO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the RECORD on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who has a strong interest

in this issue related to Taiwan's status in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I do rise in support of this measure. For too long, Taiwan has been left out of international organizations at the demand of China. Taiwan was denied access to the World Health Organization. It was unable to participate as even an observer for over 40 years. Thankfully, though, that changed in 2009, when a Taiwanese delegation was allowed to observe meetings in Geneva. Infectious disease knows no borders. And it was only proper that that change was made. Congress had long pressed for this action through bills and resolutions.

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So it is fitting that we once again take to the floor to press for Taiwan's inclusion in the International Civil Aviation Organization. Despite being home to the world's 18th busiest airport, Taiwan has been kept out of an organization that aims to keep passengers safe.

Indeed, as this resolution finds, Taiwan's exclusion from the ICAO has impeded Taiwan's government from keeping up-to-date with aviation standards and prevented the implementation of new systems and new procedures. The 35 million passengers that travel to and from Taiwan each year are done a great disservice by Taiwan's exclusion.

Mr. Speaker, in a relatively short period of time, Taiwan has gone from poverty to prosperity. It has gone from autocracy to democracy. We have a strong relationship that stretches back for over half a century. Today, our relations remain strong. Passage of this resolution will only serve to strengthen this relationship, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 17 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'd like to thank the sponsor of the legislation, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for their leadership on this issue.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO. Taiwan has made significant progress in its economic and political development. Today, Taiwan is a leading trade partner of the United States and stands as a beacon of democracy in Asia.

However, Taiwan has been excluded from meaningful participation in ICAO, an international organization which is dedicated to ensuring safe and efficient air transportation around the globe.

Taiwan clearly deserves to be brought into ICAO as an observer—a status specifically recognized under ICAO's own rules.

Taiwan has jurisdiction over airspace comprising 176,000 square nautical miles and provides air traffic control services to over 1.3 million flights each year. It has the eighth largest airport in the world by cargo volume, and the 18th largest by the number of international passengers.

Taiwan's exclusion from ICAO has impeded Taiwan's efforts to maintain civil aviation standards to keep up with rapidly evolving international standards. It is unable to even contact ICAO for up-to-date information on aviation standards and norms, nor can it receive ICAO's technical assistance implementing new regulations or participate in ICAO technical and academic seminars.

Despite these impediments, Taiwan has made every effort to comply with ICAO's standards, but their continued exclusion not only hurts Taiwan, it puts the entire international aviation system at risk. Indeed, Taiwan's exclusion has prevented ICAO from developing a truly global strategy to address security threats.

With this resolution, Congress calls on the international community to grant Taiwan observer status at ICAO, not only to help Taiwan, but to ensure ICAO can fulfill its own mission and address international threats to aviation security. We call on the United States government to take the leading role at ICAO to assist Taiwan in gaining that status and look forward to working with our administration officials to track the development of these efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I will make some remarks, and then I will also yield back the remainder of our time.

I rise in strong support of this important resolution which calls upon the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, to grant meaningful participation for Taiwan.

Is there any doubt in a post-September 11th world that air traffic safety constitutes one of the first lines of defense against those who would do harm to the United States or to our friends and allies? Are not the people of Taiwan deserving of the same level of protection against air assault as provided to the other peoples whose governments participate in ICAO?

The Taipei flight information region, under the jurisdiction of Taiwan, covers an airspace of 176,000 square nautical miles. Taiwan's main international airport is recognized as the eighth largest in the world in cargo traffic and the 18th in the number of international passengers who make use of its services.

Can there be any doubt, therefore, that Taiwan, which provides air safety control services for well over 1,350,000 flights annually needs meaningful participation in the international organization responsible for air safety and security?

Beijing, like some haughty overlord, condescendingly informed Taipei and the U.N. system in the year 2009 that it would allow, at least temporarily, Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly. Meaningful participation in international organizations for Taiwan represents too important an issue to be determined only by the whims of Beijing.

It is time to open the door to Taiwan's constructive and meaningful participation in ICAO, and that time is now.

The State Department, as this resolution suggests, should assume a leading role in providing an action plan to ensure that this happened as quickly as possible. We owe this, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Taiwan. We owe this to ensure as well for the air safety of those American passengers flying over the skies of the western Pacific.

And here I am not speaking just in theoretical terms, Mr. Speaker. Let us not forget that it was less than three decades ago when, due to a tragic confusion in air communications, a Soviet military fighter shot down a Korean Air Lines civilian flight as it left western Pacific and flew inadvertently over Soviet territory. As we know, this resulted in the death of all 269 people on board, including a Member of this House, Congressman Larry McDonald of Georgia's Seventh District. The Congressman was traveling to Seoul to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the United States-South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty.

So air safety control is, therefore, a very serious matter. Taiwan needs meaningful participation in ICAO not only for the safety and security in the air of its own citizens but also for all of the peoples of the vibrant Asia Pacific region.

ICAO will be holding its 12th Air Navigations Conference in November, and Taiwan should be, must be represented there in Montreal.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge that my colleagues join Mr. BERMAN and me in expressing their overwhelming support for this important resolution.

With that, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 17.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE FRANK R. WOLF, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Daniel F. Scandling, Chief of Staff, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF, Member of Congress: