

and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud not only the students, but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Hope Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and as engaged citizens.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Hope Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire community for this outstanding achievement.

U.S. ARMY'S SUICIDE STAND DOWN DAY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today during Suicide Prevention Month to recognize the Army's Suicide Stand Down Day, which will take place later this month on September 27, 2012.

The stand down is an opportunity for the Army to take a hard look at current efforts to address the issue of suicide among soldiers and focus on ways to improve these efforts. It will emphasize eliminating the stigma surrounding mental health injuries, which too often prevents our service men and women from getting the help they need.

This could not come at a more critical time. The incidence of suicide among our troops has skyrocketed to alarming levels due, in part, to over 10 years of repeated and protracted deployments to combat zones around the world. In fact, the Army experienced a record-high 38 Active-Duty suicides in July and is on track to surpass last year's total. This is absolutely tragic and requires urgent and sustained action.

The central theme of the stand down is "Shoulder to Shoulder: We Stand up for Life." This is such a critical message—our servicemembers should never have to suffer alone. Our military men and women make tremendous sacrifices each and every day in service to our Nation, and we have a sacred obligation to take care of them in return. This means ensuring they feel comfortable seeking the care that they need without fear or repercussion or being stigmatized. This also means improving access to mental health care and providing support for our military families.

While there is no single solution to preventing military suicide, efforts like the Army's Suicide Stand Down Day are important steps because they provide an opportunity to have a frank conversation across all levels of leadership about the profound stressors our troops are experiencing.

I strongly encourage all branches of our military to continue to review and improve their suicide prevention programs because it is clear that more

must be done and that it must be done now.

Suicide reaches far beyond one individual—it devastates entire families and affects communities. Our military families are resilient and they display incredible courage in the face of so many unique challenges, but no one person or family can be strong all the time.

That is why we must continue to do everything in our power to send the message to our servicemembers, veterans, and their families that it is OK to ask for help and that the care and support they need is waiting for them.

I urge our citizens, our government, and our Nation to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Armed Forces and recommit ourselves to stemming the tide of military suicide once and for all because we can all agree that one suicide is one too many.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL ELECTION IN TAIWAN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in August I submitted a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the U.S. Government should continue to support democracy and human rights in Taiwan following the January 2012 Presidential and legislative elections. The International Election Observers Mission has prepared a Report on the National Election in Taiwan that includes some important details and findings. I ask unanimous consent that the summary of that report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL ELECTION IN TAIWAN, JANUARY 14, 2012

To: International Committee for Fair Elections in Taiwan

From: The International Election Observers Mission (IEOM)

By: Woodrow W. Clark II MA, PhD, Lead Author and Senator Frank Murkowski, Chair and all IEOM Members.

OVERVIEW

Taiwan is an island nation of 23.2 million people (November 2011) in an area of 35,980 sq. km. The nation has 18.1 million eligible voters, all citizens who are 20 or more years of age. The winner of the January 14, 2012 Presidential Election, with 51.6 per cent of the vote, was Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, the incumbent and the nominee, Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or KMT). Ms. Tsai Ing-wen of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) followed with 45.6 per cent and the nominee of the small People First Party (PFP), Mr. James Soong received about 2.8 per cent of the vote (Taiwan Election Results, January 2012).

At the same time, voters also elected the 113 members of the national parliament, the Legislative Yuan. The KMT won 64 seats, while the DPP won 40 seats and the PFP, the Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) and non-partisan independent candidates each won three seats. Compared with the 2008 legislative election, the KMT won 17 fewer seats, the DPP gained 13 additional seats, the PFP won two additional seats and the TSU, with its three seats, returned to the legislature after a four-year absence.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Taiwan experienced a long political struggle during the authoritarian era. Democracy in Taiwan only began after the death of President Chiang Ching-kuo in January 1988 and the accession of Lee Teng-hui to the presidency. The political system is not divided between "left" and "right," though the DPP does place somewhat more emphasis on "social justice." Instead, "the primary political cleavage between the political parties has been and remains the issue of national identity, often referred to as the 'unification-independence' issue" (Taiwan Elections Handbook, 2012: p.13), or between the "pan-blue" alliance (Kuomintang and associated parties) and the "pan-green" alliance (DPP and aligned parties).

Mr. Ma's percentage of the vote fell from the 58 per cent he gained four years earlier and, as indicated earlier, the new KMT majority in the legislature was much less than the huge victory, which it won in 2008 (Cole, March 9, 2012).

THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION (IEOM)

Eighteen (18) observers from seven countries were invited by the International Committee for Fair Elections in Taiwan (ICFET) to form an International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) for the January 2012 Presidential and Legislative elections in Taiwan. See the list of members of the IEOM below in Table 1.

The group consisted of observers from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United States, ranging in experiences from academia, elected representatives, religious groups, businesses, and civil society. As observers, the IEOM members tried to be strictly neutral in all their activities, data gathering, and conclusions.

Most members of the IEOM were in Taiwan from January 10-15, 2012. Members visited locations in Taipei, Kaohsiung, Tainan, and Taichung. As a group, they met with campaign organizers, staff, and candidates from the three political parties running presidential tickets: the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), and the People First Party (PFP). Then, on the day before the election (January 13, 2012) and during Election Day (January 14, 2012), the IEOM split into smaller groups of 2-4 members who observed political rallies, street campaigns, and polling station as well as the Central Election Commission counting center on Election Day.

This report consists of direct IEOM observations by its members as well as other sources, including the Taiwan and international press as well as post-election news sources in Chinese and English. Other observer groups were also present in Taiwan.

One other neutral observation group, the Asian Network for Free Elections Foundation (ANFREL), headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, deserves special mention. ANFREL produced an Observers Report (entitled "Credible Elections but a Tilted Playing Field") after the Election that corresponds with many IEOM observations as well as our Press Release and this Report. The ANFREL Report (2012) will be cited herein.

FULL REPORT

The full report of the IEOM was published in Taiwan on June 11th 2012, and is available on the website of the International Committee for Fair Elections in Taiwan (ICFET) at: <http://www.taiwanelections.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Taiwan-2012-Elections-IEOM-Final-Report.pdf>

KEY SECTIONS: NATION ELECTIONS AND SET OF CONDITIONS

The National Election: democracy and identity politics

Over the past twenty years, many surveys have been conducted on the identity of Taiwan's citizens. Overall, the numbers who consider themselves solely Taiwanese have increased from 17.3 per cent in 1992 to 54.2 per cent in June 2011. At the same time, the numbers who consider themselves solely Chinese have declined from 25.5 per cent in 1992 to only 4.1 per cent in June 2011. This development has continued since Ma become president in 2008. Furthermore, a recent survey shows that 74 per cent prefer independence, if given a free choice, and more than 81.7 per cent refused to accept the "One country, Two systems" proposal from China (Danielsen, 2012, pp. 141-142).

Taiwan has much more income equality than most countries today, and according to some commentators is one of the most "equal societies" in East Asia. However, inequality has been rising in recent years, so that about 20 per cent of the Taiwan population earns over six times that of the bottom 20 per cent of the population. While the unemployment level remains low by international comparison, it too has been rising, affecting mainly lower and working-class people.

The national elections on January 14, 2012 were the fifth direct presidential and the seventh direct parliamentary election. Many have called Taiwan's elections "a beacon of democratic practices in Asia" (Baum and van der Wees, 2012). Thus, many other nations in Asia and around the world were watching the Taiwan election process and its outcome very carefully. Taiwan has indeed become more "democratic" over the last twenty-four years, due to its allowing the existence and activities of opposition political parties and the rapid growth of human rights on the island. Nonetheless, these national elections were not perfect. This is why the IEOM, in its post-election Press Release, labeled them "mostly free but partly unfair" (Taiwan Elections, 2012).

Taiwan is surely not alone among countries across the globe in which movements dealing with social and environmental concerns have been followed up by developments focusing on the establishing and functioning of a genuinely democratic system. "People power movements" have also occurred in Eastern Europe and Latin America, and most recently in the Middle East and North-east Africa. . . .

Taiwan is also not alone among nations concerned with democracy today. Many western nations face similar problems. Thus, David Kilgour, a member of the IEOM, spoke about election issues in Ontario, Canada in 2005 to the House of Commons Study Group. He noted then that Canada had some similar issues with vote-getting (that is, the process whereby candidates seek votes by offering various forms of financial gains). . . .

Hence the concern for free and open democratic elections is not restricted to nations, which have recently become democratic (Economist, 2012, pp. 47-48). They are also prominent in western developed democratic nations in the West, like the USA, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, and the UK.

Conditions for Free Elections

In the following section, we follow the universal conditions for democratic elections, as set forth by Wolf (1984), which can be applied to evaluate the national elections in Taiwan in January 2012. These conditions are based upon election observations in Nicaragua during which Wolf identified nine "Conditions" that can be applied anywhere in the world (ibid., Preface). Wolf's nine Conditions are:

- 1) Honest watching of each polling station
- 2) Total secrecy in casting the vote
- 3) Voting: Dates, Residency, Inspection, and Counting
- 4) Absence of a climate of coercion and fear
- 5) Pre-election freedom of party organization and activity
- 6) Institutional freedom of intermediate organizations
- 7) Freedom of speech, campaigning, and assembly
- 8) Freedom of access to the media
- 9) Media financing of cable, TV, social and electronic, journals, newspapers, and others

The IEOM proposes two additional Conditions both for Taiwan and for other nations:

No. 10: Elections not determined or influenced by international pressure or informal relationships.

No. 11: All Candidates should have equal access to funding for elections.

Overall, the IEOM considers the 2012 Taiwan National Election to have been acceptable for Conditions 1, 2, 4, and 6. However, Conditions 3, 5, and 7 through 11 raise issues that should be addressed and corrected in future elections to improve the functioning of democracy in Taiwan.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The IEOM would like to thank the organizers of the visit, the ICFET, for their invitation and organizing of the delegation. The IEOM wants to encourage the ICFET to continue in its efforts and to support election observation activities in the future to strengthen Taiwan's democracy, so that it can be shared with other countries in the region and around the world. As the IEOM conducted its observations, the members greatly appreciated the willingness of candidates, party representatives, and government representatives to meet with them. Every party organization and its representatives demonstrated hospitality, and suffered the IEOM's questions with grace and dignity.

Areas for Improvement

The IEOM and ANFREL (January 2012) delegations made comments on the successes of the Taiwan national election, which are summarized below. Both groups saw "areas of concern". These comments are made to provide constructive feedback on the process in the spirit of improving it, so as to provide a vibrant democratic system worthy of Taiwan's people. No matter what happens in the future, China will continue to have an impact and influence in Taiwan, just as its economic impact is being felt around the world. The peaceful interactions between nations will result in building relationships and producing changes for both nations. Ms. Tsai indicated the need for the DPP to work with China during the election campaign.

Several key institutions need to be strengthened. For example, civil service and non-elected offices all need to be further depoliticized. Improvements in the legitimacy of the elections and reduction of the politicization of the police and courts would increase trust in them by the people and reduce criticism of them during campaigns. Attention should be put to ensuring the neutrality and impartiality, both real and perceived, of all related government agencies.

The IEOM affirms that Taiwan is already a democratic nation. But as with other democracies, there are problems that need to be addressed. These range from public reporting and control of election expenditures to the use of media and neutrality of the administration. The issues of the neutrality of the administrative and judicial systems are serious and need to be addressed through public oversight, evaluation and control. Will the newly re-elected government appoint and oversee "objective" and "transparent" government officials and judicial officers and

move towards much-needed judicial, administrative as well as legislative reforms?

The world will continue to watch Taiwan as it "performs" and reveals in the next four years what those future steps will be. Taiwan is a sign of hope to many and has been a model of democratic transformation. It should continue to be the "showcase nation" for democracy. To do that requires ongoing review and oversight.

The IEOM has a number of specific recommendations:

A) Thoroughly and honestly resolve the longstanding problem of KMT party assets, including their source, use and investments that create a huge imbalance in financial resources available to each party. This imbalance distorts everything else in Taiwan's elections, including that which is otherwise fair. These hidden assets also provide huge hidden funds to use for election media and other public relations activities. President Ma has stated he wants to resolve the status of these funds, but has not done so as yet. In his new term, the proof will be in his actions.

B) Strengthen enforcement and public promotion of campaign spending laws, and close the many loopholes that candidates and parties can use.

C) Make consequences real for candidates who buy votes, such as disqualification from running in future elections. For example, in 2008 the PFP Plains Aboriginal candidate Lin Cheng-er was removed as a legislator after he was convicted of vote-buying, yet he ran again as a PFP candidate in 2012 and won. We believe he should have been disqualified from running.

D) Use party discipline to combat vote-buying. Parties can mobilize members to assist with the oversight of compliance with election laws and can establish committees to gather evidence concerning election improprieties. However, it is the individual candidates who will make the difference. In short, it is the candidates, not the parties, who buy votes.

E) Change the household registration system to allow people to vote where they actually work or study in Taiwan and thus end the need to travel long distances in Taiwan to vote. This is already practiced in many countries.

TABLE 1: MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS MISSION (IEOM)

United States—Frank Murkowski, Former Senator and Former Governor of Alaska (USA); USA, Chair of IEOM Mission; Woodrow Clark II, PhD. Contributor to Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007), USA and Lead Author of Formal IEOM Report; Edward Friedman, Professor, Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison; John Tkacik, Senior Fellow and Director, Future Asia Project, International Assessment and Strategy Center.

Canada—Bill Blaikie, Former M.P., Deputy Speaker of Canadian House of Commons; Susan Henders, Director, York Centre for Asian Research at York University; David Kilgour, Former Secretary of State, Asia Pacific, and former Member of Parliament; Peter Noteboom, Deputy Secretary of Canadian Council of Churches, Commission on Justice and Peace; Ted Sivers, Former Dean, Vancouver School of Theology; Michael Stainton, President, Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada; Research Associate at the York Centre for Asian Research at York University; Lois Wilson, Former Canadian Senator, leader on Committee on Human Rights in the Canadian Senate, President of World Council of Churches, first female Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Europe (one member from France could not participate in the Report)—Michael

Danielsen, Chairman, Taiwan Corner (Denmark); Bruno Kaufmann, President, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe and Chairman of the Election Commission in Falun (Sweden); Gerrit van der Wees, Editor, Taiwan Communiqué (The Netherlands).

Japan—Katsuhiko Eguchi, Member, House of Councilors, Diet; Yoshinori Ohno, Member, House of Representatives, Diet; Yoshiko Sakurai, President, Japan Institute for National Fundamentals.

Australia—Bruce Jacobs, Professor of Asian Languages and Studies, Monash University.

BICENTENNIAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on February 25, 1812, by an act of the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Rhode Island Medical Society was chartered. In short order, physicians in the State adopted bylaws and elected officers, becoming the eighth State medical society in the Nation. Over the past 200 years, the Rhode Island Medical Society has worked to fulfill its founding principle to consistently improve patient care. That principle is reflected in its many accomplishments in the field of public health.

By 1852, just 40 years later, Rhode Island became the fourth State to collect, analyze, and publish birth, marriage, and death statistics on an annual basis. Soon after, it began distributing clinical papers of peers regarding public health trends and treatments. These early actions reflect a keen understanding of disease prevention and health promotion, as well as the collaborative nature of medicine.

Since these early years, the Rhode Island Medical Society has advanced public health efforts that run the gamut from sanitation to vaccination. It was the second in the country to admit a female doctor. It also has played a role in the development of national health care policy, such as mental health parity, an effort to achieve fairness in the treatment of mental illness, which was fully realized in 2008 when the Mental Health Parity and Addition Equity Act was signed into law.

For all these reasons, and many more, I am pleased to add my voice to those commemorating the Bicentennial of the Rhode Island Medical Society and congratulate its members, Rhode Island physicians, physician assistants, and future physicians for their important work to improve the health and lives of Rhode Islanders.

FREEDOM FOR BOB LEVINSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, over the recess we marked a sad anniversary: 2,000 days since retired FBI agent Bob Levinson went missing in Iran. That is 2,000 days Christine Levinson has been without her husband and 2,000 days their children have missed his laugh. There has been an empty seat at the family table for far too long. Last year we received proof that Bob was alive, most likely some-

where in Southwest Asia. It is time for him to come home. Mr. President, our Government must continue doing all it can to win his safe return, and I join Bob's family in calling on those who are holding Bob to set him free.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, we recognize September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

This year, the American Cancer Society estimates that 22,000 women will develop ovarian cancer and more than 15,550 women will lose their battle with this deadly cancer.

In the last 40 years, the National Cancer Institute, NCI, academic medical centers, and researchers across the country have made remarkable strides in improving treatments and therapies for various cancers.

Today, there are 12 million Americans who are cancer survivors.

Despite this progress, effective treatments for some cancers—including ovarian cancer—remain elusive.

This month, we support these women, their families, and the tireless efforts of health care providers and researchers across the country.

That is why I joined more than a dozen Senate colleagues as an original cosponsor of the National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month Resolution.

If detected earlier, an ovarian cancer patient has a 94 percent chance of surviving longer than 5 years.

However, only 20 percent of ovarian cancer is detected in its early stage, and when diagnosed in the advanced stage there is only a 30 percent chance of survival.

This makes ovarian cancer the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers.

The National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Resolution designates September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and encourages the efforts of cancer advocates to increase public awareness.

It also supports the NCI and medical researchers work to develop a reliable early detection test.

I have long been an advocate of cancer patients and research.

During the health reform debate, I successfully worked to pass the Clinical Trials Amendment.

Because of the amendment's inclusion in the Affordable Care Act, ACA, health insurance companies can no longer use participation in a clinical trial as a reason to deny health insurance coverage for routine health care.

This provision of the ACA is especially important for diseases like ovarian cancer that desperately need advancements in effective therapies.

As we recognize the importance of advancing ovarian cancer research and commend the struggle ovarian cancer patients and survivors encounter, we must ensure that researchers get the necessary funding and patients receive access to comprehensive care and coverage.

I will continue to support the goals of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month—not just in September—throughout the year.

THE LEGEND OF LATROBE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, in honor of Arnold Palmer, and the presentation of his Gold Medal to him on September 12, 2012, in the U.S. Capitol, for a lifetime of service to his Nation and contributions in the game of golf which has earned him the title of "The King". I ask that this poem penned in his honor on this occasion by Albert Caswell be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE LEGEND OF LATROBE

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The . . .
The Legend of Latrobe . . .
Upon the fairways of our lives . . .
All on her greens what we have strived!
So recorded all on these the score cards of
our lives . . .
That which all in the end so improved our
lives . . .
Can only but so be found all in how we've so
led our lives . . .
Teeing off, crushing it all in these our life's
drives!
For when it is all so said and done,
as a Champion, will we so hold the cup of life
over our heads as won?
Who have we so touched and inspired,
finishing the rounds of our lives to reach
even higher!
Pin High, On The Green On One . . .
All in what is really so important to be won!
When, all in this the tournament we call life
which we've begun!
Out upon those fields of green which now so
runs!
Will we so settle for par,
or shoot way below in the tournaments of
lives my son?
Standing out as a Champion All In The
Game of Life,
all in what we have so said and done!
Will we so make the cut before our setting
suns!
Arnold Palmer's life,
is not no ordinary one!
As the pride of Pennsylvania,
who for so many generations has so led with
such greatness to come!
The Legend of Latrobe and some!
As a champion, "The King" on all fronts!
As Father, A Husband, A Grand Father, A
Son, A Giver Not a Taker,
A Patriot in The Coast Guard serving his
country,
beating that drum!
Giving our children something to shoot for
in their lives as won!
And standing out as one of golfing's greatest
of all shining sons!
A man who could raise his own Army this
one!
And declare war on all others who so dared
to challenge America's Son!
As Arnie's Army marched with him until
each tournament was done!
A Man For All Seasons,
for so many reasons this title he has now so
won!
Yes, Arnold This Golden One!
Who so led the pack,
all because what was so in his heart which
would not lack!
Chipping into our hearts and souls,