

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 148

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to the military stability of the Taiwan Straits and United States military forces should defend Taiwan in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 1996

Mr. COX of California (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. DELAY, Mr. BOEHNER, Ms. MOLINARI, Mrs. VUCANOVICH, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BONO, Mr. BREWSTER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. CLINGER, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EWING, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FUNDERBURK, Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas, Mr. GILMOR, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HYDE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mrs. SEASTRAND, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TORKILDSEN, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. ZIMMER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States

is committed to the military stability of the Taiwan Straits and United States military forces should defend Taiwan in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the United States began its long, peaceful, and friendly relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan in 1949;

Whereas since the enactment in 1979 of the Taiwan Relations Act, the policy of the United States has been based on the expectation that the future relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means and by mutual agreement between the parties;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's intense efforts to intimidate Taiwan have reached a level that threatens to undermine stability throughout the region;

Whereas, since the beginning of 1996, the leaders of the People's Republic of China have frequently and unambiguously threatened to use military force against Taiwan;

Whereas for the past year the People's Republic of China has conducted military maneuvers designed to intimidate Taiwan both during its democratic legislative elections in 1995 and during the period preceding democratic presidential elections in March 1996;

Whereas these military maneuvers and tests have included the firing of 6 nuclear-capable missiles approximately 100 miles north of Taiwan in July 1995;

Whereas it has been reported that officials of the People's Republic of China have stated that they have developed plans to attack Taiwan with missiles for up to 30 days;

Whereas it has been reported that the People's Republic of China sought to intimidate the United States with veiled threats to launch a nuclear attack against the United States should the United States assist Taiwan in defending itself from attack;

Whereas the firing of missiles across the Taiwan Straits, an international waterway, threatens both Taiwan and the political, military, and commercial interests of the United States and its allies;

Whereas in the face of such action, Taiwan is entitled to defend itself from military aggression, including through the development of an anti-ballistic missile defense system;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a long-standing and uninterrupted friendship, which has only increased in light of the remarkable economic development and political liberalization in Taiwan in recent years;

Whereas Taiwan has achieved tremendous economic success in becoming the 19th largest economy in the world;

Whereas Taiwan has reached a historic turning point in the development of Chinese democracy, as on March 23, 1996, it will conduct the first competitive, free, fair, direct, and popular election of a head of state in over 4,000 years of recorded Chinese history;

Whereas for the past century the United States has promoted democracy and economic freedom around the world, and the evolution of Taiwan is an outstanding example of the success of that policy;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act directs the President to inform the Congress promptly of any threat to Taiwan's security and provides that the President and the Con-

gress together shall determine appropriate United States action in response; and

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 rests on the premise that the United States will assist Taiwan should it face any effort to determine its future by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the People’s Republic of China—

4 (A) should reaffirm the commitment it
5 made to the United States that it would con-
6 duct its relations with Taiwan by peaceful
7 means; and

8 (B) should engage in diplomatic negotia-
9 tions to discuss any outstanding points of dis-
10 agreement with Taiwan without any threat of
11 military or economic coercion against Taiwan;

12 (2) the People’s Republic of China should im-
13 mediately live up to its commitment to the United
14 States to work for a peaceful resolution of any dis-
15 agreements with Taiwan, and accordingly desist
16 from military actions designed to intimidate Taiwan;

17 (3) Taiwan has stated and should adhere to its
18 commitment to negotiate its future relations with
19 the mainland by mutual, not unilateral, decision;

1 (4) the United States should maintain its com-
2 mitment to resist any resort to force or other forms
3 of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the
4 social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan,
5 consistent with its undertakings in the Taiwan Rela-
6 tions Act;

7 (5) the United States should maintain a naval
8 presence sufficient to keep open the sea lanes in and
9 near the Taiwan Straits;

10 (6) in the face of the several overt military
11 threats by the People's Republic of China against
12 Taiwan, and consistent with the commitment of the
13 United States under the Taiwan Relations Act, the
14 United States should supply Taiwan with defensive
15 weapons systems, including naval vessels, aircraft,
16 and air defense, all of which are crucial to the secu-
17 rity of Taiwan; and

18 (7) the United States, in accordance with the
19 Taiwan Relations Act and the constitutional process
20 of the United States, and consistent with its friend-
21 ship with and commitment to the democratic govern-
22 ment and people of Taiwan, should assist in defend-
23 ing them against invasion, missile attack, or block-
24 ade by the People's Republic of China.

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