

Mr. Speaker, it is time for our Canadian and European allies to acknowledge Fidel Castro's contempt for them and to take a real stand. Their opportunity will come in Geneva sometime in early April when the U.N. Human Rights Commission is going to consider a resolution condemning Cuba's abuses.

I hope that our allies will not only vote for a strong resolution reinstating the special rapporteur, but will also sign on as cosponsors and help with the effort to win the necessary votes for passage of that resolution.

Regrettably, last year's U.S. sponsored resolution condemning Cuba was defeated. This was a major setback which the administration vowed to reverse. H. Res. 99 has strong support from both sides of the aisle and will send a loud clear signal to back our U.S. delegation to the 55th meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

On February 7, one of the four jailed dissidents, Marta Beatriz Roque, who suffers from untreated cancer, wrote to her fellow prisoners of conscience, "My brothers, I believe we should not fear the shadows because their presence means that a light shines from a place not far away."

With the news of Cuba's best known dissidents being sentenced fresh in our minds, all eyes should be on how the community of nations conducts itself at Geneva. Let a good resolution from the U.N. Human Rights Commission provide the light that Marta Beatriz Roque invoked.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 99. As one who historically has been an advocate for human rights and justice worldwide, I have serious concerns about H. Res. 99. I am fearful that this resolution, with its extreme and provocative language, will only introduce further tension into US-Cuba relations at this particularly unstable time.

The resolution will do nothing to improve the lives of the Cuban people and it will do nothing to improve relations between our two countries. It is more of the "tit for tat" policy that has been the map of failure in the past and represents more of the same for the future.

No one can justify or condone human rights violations anywhere in the world. Certainly, Cuba's recent crack down on its independent journalists and dissidents provokes serious concerns and criticism here and within the international community. However, like other nations, we need to take a rational approach to the current situation in Cuba, rather than support the extremist language in this resolution.

Since this resolution addresses the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, it is also important to recognize that last year, for the seventh year in a row, the UN General Assembly condemned the US economic embargo on Cuba by a vote of 157-2 and called on Washington to end its sanctions. Instead of discussing more legislation which increases the hostility between the US and Cuba and further isolates us from the United Nations and the rest of the world, we

should be discussing legislation which addresses human rights for Cubans in total. This would include addressing one of the most egregious human rights offenses: the US's denial of food and medicine to the Cuban people.

If we are truly serious about assisting the Cuban people, we need to cultivate a sphere of influence on the island and a diplomatic relationship with the Government of Cuba. The unreasonable language in this resolution will only exacerbate hostility and further anti-American sentiment in Cuba, which will get us nowhere.

We should listen to Elizardo Sanchez, Cuba's leading human rights activist as he states: "The more the US pressures and threatens the Cuban government, the more defensive and recalcitrant it becomes. This is not the way to encourage an atmosphere that favors change."

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to talk about human rights. Not only in Cuba, but also in this country.

I believe in civil rights for all people, here and abroad. However, I want to caution my Colleagues who have come to this floor today to "Condemn Castro's Cuba" for his human rights record and remind my colleagues that we have yet to pass a resolution on the human rights of those victims of police brutality.

I ask my colleagues why it is so easy to "beat up" on Cuba and yet at the same time grant mainland China most favored nation status.

There is no doubt that Cuba needs improvement in realizing economic, social, civic, political and cultural rights. However, I remind my colleagues of the phrase, "those who live in glass houses . . ."

Furthermore, I ask my colleagues how this condemning resolution and how American hostility will actually help Cuba realize a better human rights record. How does that embargo assist Castro in realizing civil liberties of its citizens?

For the record, I want to make it clear that Human Rights Violations in this country are just as threatening to democracy as those in Cuba or anyplace else on the face of the earth.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my 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 agree to the resolution, House Resolution 99, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 56) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 56

Whereas April 10, 1999, will mark the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan

Relations Act, codifying in public law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act was advanced by Congress and supported by the executive branch as a critical tool to preserve and promote ties the American people have enjoyed with the people of Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979;

Whereas when the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted in 1979, it affirmed that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China refuse to renounce the use of force against democratic Taiwan;

Whereas the defense modernization and weapons procurement efforts by the People's Republic of China, as documented in the February 1, 1999, report by the Secretary of Defense on "The Security Situation in the Taiwan Strait", could threaten cross-Strait stability and United States interests in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act provides explicit guarantees that the United States will make available defense articles and services necessary in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas section 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act requires timely reviews by United States military authorities of Taiwan's defense needs in connection with recommendations to the President and the Congress;

Whereas Congress and the President are committed by Article 3(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act to determine the nature and quantity of Taiwan's legitimate self-defense needs;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to reject any attempt to curb the provision by the United States of defense articles and services legitimately needed for Taiwan's self-defense;

Whereas it is the policy set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act to promote extensive commercial relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan and such commercial relations would be further enhanced by Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization;

Whereas Taiwan today is a full-fledged multi-party democracy fully respecting human rights and civil liberties and serves as a successful model of democratic reform for the People's Republic of China;

Whereas it is United States policy to promote extensive cultural relations with Taiwan, ties that should be further encouraged and expanded;

Whereas any attempt to determine Taiwan's future by other than peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes, would be considered a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific and of grave concern to the United States;

Whereas in the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which encourages the future of democratic Taiwan to be determined by peaceful means, Taiwan has engaged the People's Republic of China in a cross-Strait dialogue by advocating that peaceful reunification be based on a democratic system of government being implemented on the mainland; and

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute on Taiwan

(AIT) to carry out the programs, transactions, and other relations conducted or carried out by the United States Government with respect to Taiwan and AIT should be recognized for the successful role it has played in sustaining and enhancing United States relations with Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States should reaffirm its commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and the specific guarantees for the provision of legitimate defense articles to Taiwan contained therein;

(2) the Congress has grave concerns over China's military modernization and weapons procurement program, especially ballistic missile capability and deployment that seem particularly directed toward threatening Taiwan;

(3) the President should direct all appropriate officials to raise these grave concerns about new Chinese military threats to Taiwan with officials from the People's Republic of China;

(4) the President should seek from leaders of the People's Republic of China a public renunciation of any use of force, or threat to use force, against Taiwan;

(5) the President should provide annually a report detailing the military balance on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, including the impact of procurement and modernization programs;

(6) the executive branch should inform the appropriate committees of Congress when officials from Taiwan seek to purchase defense articles for self-defense;

(7) the United States Government should encourage a regional high-level dialogue on the best means to ensure stability, peace, and freedom of the seas in East Asia;

(8) the President should encourage further dialogue between democratic Taiwan and the People's Republic of China; and

(9) it should be United States policy in conformity with Article 4(d) of the Taiwan Relations Act to publicly support Taiwan's admission to the World Trade Organization as soon as possible on its own merits and encourage others to adopt similar policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 56.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 56, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, and I want to thank the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of

the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) and all the other cosponsors for their efforts in helping to bring this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this resolution commemorating this landmark piece of foreign policy regulation. It is only appropriate that the House make note of the Taiwan Relations Act, which serves as a basis for continued commercial, cultural, security and other relations between our Nation and Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act was adopted into law on April 10, 1979, and has served as a critical element in preserving and promoting ties between our Nation and Taiwan. The TRA has been instrumental in maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait since it was enacted in 1979, and it is my hope that the TRA will continue to serve to ensure that the future of Taiwan be determined by peaceful means. Regrettably, the People's Republic of China has refused to renounce the use of force against Taiwan.

Our Nation is pleased with the flourishing on Taiwan of a fully-fledged, multi-party democracy which respects human rights and civil liberties. It is hoped that Taiwan will serve as an example to the PRC and to others in the region in that regard and will encourage progress in the furthering of Democratic principles and practices, respect for human rights, and the enhancement of the rule of law.

The Congress looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with Taiwan in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the United States and for the peoples of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has an impressive list of cosponsors, and I urge my colleagues in the House to support H. Con. Res. 56 commemorating this distinctive piece of legislation and the unique ties between the peoples of the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate the distinguished chairman of our Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for introducing this legislation, as well as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, my good friend from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and all other colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, was necessary when the United States broke diplomatic relations with the Republic of China in Taiwan after establishing full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China 20 years ago.

The Taiwan Relations Act provides us with the mechanism for maintaining continued security, economic, cultural and political relations between the United States and Taiwan. It has been the key to maintaining close relationships between the American people and the people of Taiwan.

In the past 20 years, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has undergone perhaps more dramatic change than any other country on the face of this planet. Taiwan has emerged from a long tradition of authoritarian rule and it has become a full-fledged political democracy, with free elections, free press, freedom of religion, and a multi-party democracy. Just a few years ago, the people of Taiwan participated, in the first time in the history of the Chinese people, in the direct and Democratic election of a president.

Taiwan has made incredible progress in the economic sphere. It is now viewed, properly, as one of the most successful economies on the face of this planet and is one of our key trading partners.

It is intriguing to note, Mr. Speaker, that while we are celebrating and commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, the 20th year of establishing full diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States passed almost unnoticed. The reason, of course, is that the American people have severe reservations about the continuing oppression of human rights on the mainland of China.

House Concurrent Resolution 56 calls particular attention to the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act which guarantee that the United States will continue to make available defense articles that are necessary for Taiwan's offense. In light of China's ominous military buildup in recent times of ballistic missile capabilities and other military resources directed at Taiwan, this provision is extremely important and I welcome that our resolution reaffirms our commitment to Taiwan's defense.

We also need to assure, Mr. Speaker, that Taiwan is able to participate in all international organizations. We particularly need to support the participation of Taiwan in the World Trade Organization. By every conceivable yardstick, Taiwan has earned the right to full and unrestricted membership in the World Trade Organization, and I call on our government to support Taiwan's membership.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the vice chairman of our Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me

this time, and as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the Committee on International Relations, this Member rises in support of H. Con. Res. 56, the resolution before the House commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Following President Carter's decision in 1979 to terminate relations with the Republic of China and diplomatically recognize the mainland People's Republic of China, a new American relationship with Taiwan was necessitated. As a result, the Taiwan Relations Act, often referred to as the TRA, was enacted on April 10, 1979, and continues today to serve as the basis for continued commercial, culture, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan.

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Much has changed since the enactment of the TRA. Taiwan has developed into a full-fledged multiparty democracy that respects human rights and civil liberties. Taiwan has grown into one of the strongest and most developed economies in East Asia and it is America's seventh largest export market.

Unfortunately, the rhetoric and military threats to Taiwan from the People's Republic of China have not abated. Indeed, from a technical military perspective that threat has actually increased, especially, it appears, in the last several months. Significant Chinese military exercises in the region have included live-fire exercises in March 1996 and the firing of two missiles that impacted near Taiwan.

Now there is an increased deployment of such offensive ballistic missiles in Fujian province, just across the strait from Taiwan. They clearly are there to threaten or act against Taiwan. Actually, according to recent newspaper reports, China has deployed more than 100 additional ballistic missiles in mainland provinces close to the Strait of Taiwan. This would more than triple the number of missiles previously positioned in that area.

House Concurrent Resolution 56 makes note of the Congress' grave concerns about these threats, seeks from the leaders of the People's Republic of China a public renunciation of the use of force or threat to use force against Taiwan, and reaffirms the United States' commitment to the TRA and the specific guarantees for the provision of legitimate defense articles to Taiwan contained therein. On this, the Congress and the U.S. Government should be clear. The resolution reaffirms that the policy of the United States remains the rejection of any attempt to curb the provision of defense articles and services by the United States which are legitimately needed for Taiwan's self-defense.

From diplomatic and legal perspectives, the relationship of the United States which it has maintained with Taiwan since 1979 is certainly unique. Yet in many ways our ties remain very

normal and comprehensive. Indeed, they have been strengthened over the years, thanks to the solid foundation provided over the past 20 years by the Taiwan Relations Act and to the democratization of Taiwan by its leaders and its people. Thus, it is appropriate on the 20th anniversary for Congress to take the time to commemorate and reaffirm its commitment to the TRA and to Taiwan and its people.

This Member wants to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for his interest in working with this Member on this 20th year resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may claim the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, like this Member, the chairman, of course, was here in 1979 and voted for enactment of the TRA. This Member also certainly welcomes the opportunity to work with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) in crafting House Concurrent Resolution 56. All three of us independently, I think, had resolved to raise this issue by our own initiatives, and in this legislative product we are joined by colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BEREUTER was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, for example, and with emphasis, this Member wants to express his appreciation for the interest and support of the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for cosponsoring H.Con.Res. 56 and for assisting this Member to facilitate our expeditious markup in both the committee and the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, H.Con.Res. 56 is a very timely resolution, given the concerns that many Members of the House, including this Member, have about the current direction in Sino-American relations. Our relations with Beijing are increasingly problematic. However, it is important for all to know, especially for Beijing to know when making its foreign policy calculations, that when it comes to U.S. relations with Taiwan there has been no weakening in our resolve to help the Taiwanese provide for their defense. The solid direction provided for by the TRA has helped provide consistency in the demonstration of our resolve.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this Member urges passage of H.Con.Res. 56.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for adding his prestige to this important resolution, and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), of course, for taking the lead in the sponsorship role and in expediting today's markup.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), of course, for his longtime support of human rights everywhere, but especially here concerning the Taiwan Relations Act and our confrontation with China on these very important and all-important human rights issues.

House Concurrent Resolution 56, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, was originally introduced in the Senate by Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI and by myself in the House as House Concurrent Resolution 53, to send an unmistakable message from the United States Congress to the people of democratic Taiwan. The bipartisan cosponsorship also sends a strong message to the communist Chinese that Congress is unified in its stand to steadfastly stand by our democratic allies in Taiwan under the carefully crafted terms of the Taiwan Relations Act.

In recent years the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait has been altered by the unprecedented military modernization and missile buildup by the communist Chinese, who continue to threaten to take over Taiwan by force despite the fact that the Taiwan Relations Act commits them not to commit that act of force and violence in order to reunify Taiwan with the mainland.

This resolution calls for the United States to continue to provide adequate defense materials and support to Taiwan in order to assure that the future of Taiwan is determined by peaceful and democratic means. This is totally consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act which, of course, was brought about 20 years ago today.

In effect, the resolution supports the cost of a cross-strait dialogue negotiating position of Taiwan President Lee that in order for a peaceful reunification to occur, Beijing must stop its threats of force and must implement real democratic government in mainland China.

This House Resolution does not explicitly state the need for Taiwan to be included in a regional missile defense system. However, due to the communists' growing missile arsenal, the inclusion of Taiwan in regional defense forums and in missile defense programs I believe is essential.

Having been in Taiwan during the recent legislative elections, I observed the enthusiastic participation of the majority of people in Taiwan in the

democratic process. There should be no mistake, whether in the United States or in China, that we value the friendship of the courageous, democracy-loving people in Taiwan and, yes, those democracy-loving people on the mainland of China as well. We are committed to standing by them, and no matter what the bluster and bully of the communist regime that now controls the mainland, we will now stay true to these principles as were laid out in the Taiwan Relations Act.

The Taiwan Relations Act laid the foundation for peace and set in motion at the same time, 20 years ago, a democratization process. In Taiwan that democratization resulted in what even its former critics agree is now a full-fledged Western style democracy. This is a magnificent accomplishment for the people of Taiwan and something that we tip our hats to as well today.

Unfortunately, on the mainland of China there seems to have been a backsliding in just the opposite direction. Since the Tiananmen Square massacre of China's democratic movement, the mainland has retrogressed and has slid deeper and deeper into repression, militarization and belligerence.

The communists in Beijing have tried to sabotage the Taiwan Relations Act which, as I say, was the foundation laid for peace and democratization, and they tried to sabotage it through subtle changes, subtly implying that this does not apply any longer to the Taiwan Relations Act, and in some cases with some language that is just out and out confrontational, saying that the Taiwan Relations Act does not apply.

We are putting the communist Chinese on notice today that the Taiwan Relations Act has brought peace, has brought stability to that area of the world, and we expect it to be followed to the letter. We will not see it changed subtly, we will not see it changed through confrontation, and any attempts to change the Taiwan Relations Act without another consultation agreement with all parties is considered an act of belligerency against the United States and an aggression upon the cause of peace in that part of the world.

We hope that by reaffirming this 20th anniversary, that we can step forward again with peace for another 20 years and hopefully a new democratization process that will include all of China.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should reaffirm its commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and the specific guarantees for the provision of legitimate defense articles.

The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 linked the security interests of Taiwan to those of the United States. Since the adoption of this Act, the United States has made available to Taiwan those articles necessary for its self-defense.

In 1996, China displayed a show of force in the Taiwan Strait, it was not just the people of China and Taiwan that were ill at ease, but it was unsettling for the entire region. The balance of power in the Taiwan Strait has been of concern to the Congress. I have grave concerns over China's military modernization and weapons procurement program. China's ballistic missile capability and the deployment of these systems poses a present danger to the future stability in Asia. There is little doubt that the fragility of this situation poses a significant threat to the stability of the Pacific Rim and to American interests in the region.

The Taiwan Relations Act was enacted by Congress to promote the American relationship with Taiwan and to ensure that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. I understand that the relationship Taiwan and the Chinese government is a tense one. Rather than taking sides between the two governments, this resolution seeks to reduce that tension by asking China to abstain from the use of military force in resolving the dispute.

I encourage the President to express to China our concerns for the stability of the region, and the importance that any dispute be resolved in a peaceful manner.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 56, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act has provided a stable foundation for peace and security in the Taiwan strait for 20 years. Since 1979, when the Taiwan Relations Act was passed, Taiwan has grown into a full fledged, multi-party democracy with a free press and respect for human rights.

Additionally, the TRA has served both the United States and Taiwan well as the framework for our commercial relations. During the same twenty years, Taiwan has grown into an economic powerhouse and a major player in the global market. Even in the face of the Asian financial crisis, Taiwan continues to post impressive economic growth numbers. Through prudent economic policies that have kept foreign debt low and foreign exchange reserves high, Taiwan managed to post a 4.8% GDP growth rate last year.

Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act also speaks to the commitment of the United States to support Taiwan's legitimate self-defense needs and recognizes that Taiwan's future must be decided by peaceful means only. The resolution before us today notes that cross-strait discussions are ongoing and urges the People's Republic of China to renounce the use of force as a means.

Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Relations Act has served the United States and Taiwan well as the policy framework that guides our relationship. I urge all my colleagues to recognize the success of the TRA and to support the resolution.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 56, a resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and reaffirming Congressional support for that law.

For many years, I have been a strong supporter of the Taiwanese people. In the last Congress, I was proud to have cosponsored legislation urging Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization and a resolution calling on Beijing to renounce the use of force

in the Taiwan Strait. This year I look forward to playing a role in additional Congressional efforts to demonstrate America's continued strong support for Taiwan.

Taiwan's transition to a democratic state with a vibrant free market economy continues to be the rock on which Congressional support is based. Nothing in Asia has been more spectacular than the rapid, democratic political evolution in Taiwan. The formation of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party in 1986, President Chiang Ching-kuo ending martial law in 1987, President Lee Teng-hui's ending the state of civil war with China and the special emergency powers which controlled dissent in Taiwan in 1991, and electing a new National Assembly in 1992 were all dynamic milestones on the road to Taiwan's complete political reformation. Since then, elections, including last December's legislative and municipal elections, have further demonstrated the political sophistication of the Taiwanese electorate.

The emergence of a democratic Taiwan is one of the most encouraging developments in Asia, demonstrating to other states in the region which still linger under the control of one man or one party that the people can rule for themselves. Taiwan's success in managing the turbulence of last year's Asian economic crisis provides additional testimony to the strength of its institutions and people.

Last year's elections sent a strong signal to Beijing that a change in relations between Taiwan and China cannot be imposed by China's self-appointed rulers. I believe that China should renounce the use of force as a means to bring about unification.

I applaud the high level dialogue which has resumed between Taiwan and China. As we all know, Taiwan has extremely important economic and social ties with China. It would benefit both governments to take additional steps towards reducing cross Strait tensions. President Clinton's policy of engagement with China is the right policy. China is a critically important world power. We must engage China on economic, political, and security issues with the expectation that we can find a common ground for solving the world's problems. We need China's support if we are going to create an open international trading regime in which all countries benefit. We need China's support if we are going to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. And we need China's support if we are going to ensure that the Asian region remains peaceful.

But as we seek to engage China and deepen our relations with China, our search for common ground should not come at the price of our commitment to Taiwan's democracy and prosperity. I have urged and will continue to urge the Administration to fulfill the commitment it made in its 1994 Taiwan policy review to seek membership for Taiwan in appropriate international organizations. Taiwan's singular political and economic achievements give it the potential to play a tremendous constructive role in the international community. Taiwan has offered to assist its neighbors in the recent Asian financial crisis. It could play more of a role if given the chance.

I would urge special consideration be given to finding a role for Taiwan in the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Health Organization. But this year I think special emphasis should be placed on gaining

Taiwan's membership in the World Trade Organization.

There has been much talk in recent weeks about the conclusion of a WTO accession agreement with China. I think we would all welcome a solid commitment by China to open its economy to fair trade and investment, but if such an agreement is not forthcoming, I think we should no longer hesitate to conclude an agreement with Taiwan. From all reports, Taiwan is just sentences away from completing the requirements for a WTO accession agreement with the United States. We should move rapidly to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" for concluding the agreement and then press the other states to admit Taiwan even if China is not yet ready. If China does not want to be part of the international trading community, that is China's problem. It is not Taiwan's! And China should not be allowed to prevent Taiwan's entry into the WTO.

Just as it made no sense for the United States to pretend that China did not exist during the Cold War, it is equal nonsense to pretend that Taiwan does not exist in the post Cold War period.

As a senior member of the House International Relations Committee and as a Member on the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, I promise to do everything I can to see that Taiwan and the Taiwanese people are not forgotten by the international community.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House, which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) while reaffirming the strong commitment of the United States to provide for the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan under the TRA.

I commend the author of the resolution, the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and the Democratic Ranking Member, Mr. GEJDENSON, for moving this important resolution to the floor. I also recognize the Chairman and Democratic Ranking Member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific Affairs, Mr. BEREUTER and Mr. LANTOS, as well as Mr. ROHRABACHER, for their substantial contributions to formulation of the resolution. I am honored to join my colleagues on the House International Relations Committee as a co-sponsor in support of House Concurrent Resolution 56.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has had a long, close and enduring relationship with Taiwan dating back to the end of World War II. With our support, Taiwan has risen from the region's ruins of war to become one of the world's strongest economies and most vibrant democracies in Asia.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan must be congratulated for the outstanding accomplishments of their thriving and prosperous democracy of 22 million people. All Americans should take pride in and share the achievements of our close friends.

At the heart of the relationship between Taiwan and the United States is the Taiwan Relations Act, which for two decades has laid the foundation for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

When the security of our friends in Taiwan was threatened by the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Spring of 1996, I supported the Clinton Administration in sending the Nimitz and Independence carrier groups to the Taiwan Strait to maintain peace. China's mis-

sile tests and threatened use of force contravened the PRC's commitments under the 1979 and 1982 Joint Communiques to resolve Taiwan's status by peaceful means. The Joint Communiques, in concert with the Taiwan Relations Act, lay the framework for our "One China" policy, which fundamentally stresses that force shall not be used in resolution of the Taiwan question. It is clearly in the interests of the United States and all parties that the obligation continues to be honored.

Today, reports indicate that China has between 150 to 200 M-9 and M-11 ballistic missiles in its southern regions facing Taiwan, and has protested U.S. efforts assisting Taiwan's defense as a violation of China's sovereignty. To pre-empt any Theater Missile Defense (TMD) that might be deployed in the future, China is expected to increase these missile batteries to over 650.

Mr. Speaker, I find this situation unfortunate and ironic, as China has legitimate sovereignty interests to preserve with Taiwan, yet is providing the very justification for U.S. defensive intervention under the Taiwan Relations Act. If China truly desires to stop Taiwan from being included in plans for a U.S. Theater Missile Defense system for the Asia-Pacific region, then it should take immediate steps to defuse the crisis by scaling back its present deployment of ballistic missiles facing Taiwan, resuming the Cross-Strait Dialogue between Beijing and Taipei, and exerting influence with North Korea to curb development and proliferation of long-range missile technology.

Mr. Speaker, in citing in part to the Taiwan issue, there is growing sentiment in Washington bent on portraying China as the major enemy of and security threat to the United States. I do not support this view, as it is unnecessarily alarmist and runs the risk of poisoning our longterm relationship with the PRC while undercutting our mission to integrate China as a responsible member of the international community.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the United States has demonstrated in recent years that the use of force by China against Taiwan will not be tolerated. The legislation before us reaffirms that fact, and the central role that the Taiwan Relations Act has played and will continue to play in ensuring U.S. commitment that Taiwan's status will be resolved peacefully by the governments on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support the resolution before us.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 56, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 56.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONCERNING ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE DUMA OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 37) concerning anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Duma of the Russian Federation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 37

Whereas the world has seen in the 20th century the disastrous results of ethnic, religious, and racial intolerance;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is on record, through obligations freely accepted as a participating state of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as pledging to "clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone . . .";

Whereas at two public rallies in October 1998, Communist Party member of the Duma, Albert Makashov, blamed "the Yids" for Russia's current problems;

Whereas in November 1998, attempts by members of the Russian Duma to formally censure Albert Makashov were blocked by members of the Communist Party;

Whereas in December 1998, the chairman of the Duma Security Committee and Communist Party member, Viktor Ilyukhin, blamed President Yeltsin's "Jewish entourage" for alleged "genocide against the Russian people";

Whereas in response to the public outcry over the above-noted anti-Semitic statements, Communist Party chairman Gennadi Zyuganov claimed in December 1998 that such statements were a result of "confusion" between Zionism and "the Jewish question"; and

Whereas during the Soviet era, the Communist Party leadership regularly used "anti-Zionist campaigns" as an excuse to persecute and discriminate against Jews in the Soviet Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma;

(2) commends actions taken by members of the Russian Duma to condemn anti-Semitic statements made by Duma members;

(3) commends President Yeltsin and other members of the Russian Government for condemning anti-Semitic statements made by Duma members; and

(4) reiterates its firm belief that peace and justice cannot be achieved as long as governments and legislatures promote policies based upon anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 37.