

Appendix 105 -- NPC on U.S. Congress Moves Concerning Taiwan Issue (1999)

Source: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America.
Available at: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/sgxx/sggg/rdsm/t34864.htm>

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For some time, a small number of people in U.S. Congress have continually whipped up sentiments by strongly advocating increased arms sales to Taiwan under the pretext of so-called Chinese Communist military threat.

Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate introduced the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act on March 24. He was followed by Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Thomas Delay, majority whip of the House, who co-sponsored a similar House bill on May 18. Then, Delay and Helms wrote to their chambers respectively on June 7 and 11, trying to press quick passage of their bills. On June 8, the Senate passed an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000 introduced by Trent Lott, majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

This amendment openly called for review and evaluation of "all gaps in relevant knowledge about the current and future military balance between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, and of the U.S. Defense Department's implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act. It is known to all that the U.S. has continued to sell arms to Taiwan despite of signing of the August 17th Communiqué with China in 1982.

U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have actually increased by big margins in recent years. Their quality has also gone up, which includes not only advanced early warning and antimissile systems, but also comprehensive weapon system such as electron-antagonistic surveillance system and late model transport aircraft which will upgrade the overall combat effectiveness.

More over, some U.S. congressmen are trying to bring Taiwan into the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system.

The above amendment and the proposed Taiwan Security Enhancement Act are aimed at creating legal basis for selling advanced arms, including TMD, to Taiwan and for closer U.S.-Taiwan military cooperation. They are also aimed at supporting and protecting the splittist political forces in Taiwan in their plot to create tension in the Taiwan Straits, poison cross-Straits relations and obstruct China's reunification.

The actions of these U.S. lawmakers have completely violated the principles enshrined in the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués, especially the U.S.'s own pledge under the August 17th Communiqué in which the U.S. committed to gradually reducing and finally halting arms sales to Taiwan.

Their actions have not only posed serious threat to China's security, but will also undermine

peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Taiwan is part of China and the Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair of China. This is a fact that is widely recognized by the international community, including the United States.

The perverse actions of some U.S. legislators constitutes a grave provocation to Chinese sovereignty and a gross interference in China's internal affairs. We condemn and oppose these actions.

The crux of the ups and downs in China-U.S. relations after diplomatic recognition is the issue of Taiwan.

The principles set forth in the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués provide the political foundation for the development of bilateral relations. The U.S. government and Congress are duty bound to abide by these principles and faithfully carry out U.S. commitment to the "one-China" policy.

Practice proves that China-U.S. relationship will move forward smoothly when these principles are observed; it will suffer setbacks when they are obstructed. Any damage to the relationship runs counter to the fundamental interests and aspirations of the people of both countries.

We strongly demand that the U.S. Congress cherish the larger interests of China-U.S. relations, abide by the principles of the three joint communiqués and prevent the aforementioned attempts from further eroding the difficult relationship that has gone through so much tribulation.