

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 127

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the planned state visit to the United States by the President of the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the planned state visit to the United States by the President of the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the President of the People's Republic of China is tentatively scheduled to begin a state visit in Washington, D.C., on October 29, 1997;

Whereas a state visit, unlike a working-level visit, involves the highest-level protocol that can be afforded a foreign head of state;

Whereas on December 13, 1995, a Beijing court sentenced Wei Jingsheng to 14 years in prison for peacefully advocating democracy and political reforms in China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China had previously imprisoned Wei Jingsheng from 1979 to

1993, also for peacefully promoting human rights and democracy in China;

Whereas Wei Jingsheng is just one of hundreds, if not thousands, of other political, religious, and labor dissidents who are imprisoned in China and Tibet for peacefully expressing their beliefs and exercising their internationally recognized rights of free association and expression;

Whereas like other prisoners, Wei Jingsheng is in poor health and Chinese authorities refuse to provide him with proper medical care; and

Whereas the Department of State 1996 Human Rights Report states: “[t]he Government [of the People’s Republic of China] continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally accepted norms, stemming from the authorities’ intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence or inadequacy of laws protecting basic freedoms.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 President should not host a state visit by the President
3 of the People’s Republic of China until—

4 (1) the Government of the People’s Republic of
5 China immediately and unconditionally releases Wei
6 Jingsheng, Wang Dan, and a significant number of
7 other prisoners of conscience held in prison in China
8 and Tibet;

9 (2) the Government of the People’s Republic of
10 China takes immediate steps toward improving the
11 conditions under which political, religious, and labor

1 dissidents are imprisoned in China and Tibet, in-
2 cluding providing prisoners with adequate medical
3 care and allowing international humanitarian agen-
4 cies access to detention facilities; and

5 (3) the Government of the People's Republic of
6 China makes significant progress toward improving
7 overall human rights conditions in China and Tibet,
8 including taking concrete steps to grant freedom of
9 speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of associa-
10 tion in compliance with international human rights
11 standards.

○