

But once that issue is addressed and a new Taiwanese administration is inaugurated, China may opt to act militarily in some fashion against Taiwan. Such a misguided policy of restricting arms sales by the Clinton administration to Taiwan now will only serve to increase the likelihood of Chinese adventurism, miscalculation, and military confrontation over Taiwan's future.

Any equivocating on this year's arms sales process will send the wrong signal at the wrong time to both China and to Taiwan. Instead of eclipsing a crisis through strength and deterrence, the administration may be in fact fomenting a crisis in the Taiwan Strait through weakness and through indecision.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. I want to thank the majority leader for his good work in bringing it to the floor.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to strongly support this measure.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan once again on a free and fair election.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 292—Congratulating the people of Taiwan on their successful presidential elections on March 18. This election serves as a testament to their continuing efforts in sustaining a free society that respects democracy and human rights.

The people of Taiwan deserve our praise and support for conducting this election. They showed that true democracy can be successful even in the face of military threats by the Chinese government. This election is a reminder that the threat of a military attack will not be successful in a political system where the people can exercise the right to determine their own future. The people of Taiwan have taken great risks in sticking to their principles.

The second free election in Taiwan represents a coming of age for this maturing democracy. This is the first time in 50 years that the Nationalist Party (KMT) will have to give up its political power. The peaceful transfer of power is a key turning point for every successful democracy.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the new President of Taiwan, Mr. Chen Shui-bian. Mr. Chen was born in rural Taiwan about the time of the Chinese Communist Revolution. Since then, Mr. Chen has been an outspoken advocate for human rights and has served as a successful mayor of Taipei in recent years.

Over the course of his campaign, Mr. Chen has shown prudence in handling the China issue. In his victory speech, he promised to continue economic relations with mainland China and seek a "permanent peace." It is my hope that China and Taiwan will continue to negotiate their differences in a peaceful manner. I would also like to commend Vice-President elect Annette Liu who has advocated for democratic reform in Taiwan on her visits to Washington, D.C.

This election proves that the Chinese people, like people all over the world, will choose freedom and democracy when given the opportunity. By contrast, the Chinese government continues to escalate the repression and human rights of its own people—despite the thriving democracy across the strait. The Tai-

wan elections should serve as an example that the only real hope of eventual reunification rests in the possibility of true freedom and democracy in China.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today with H. Con. Res. 292 Congress bestows well-deserved congratulations upon the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and for their continuing efforts to develop and sustain a free republic that respects individual rights and embraces free markets. President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan should also be praised for his significant contributions to freedom in Taiwan.

Unfortunately, because the bill pronounces the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8) as the legal standard by which U.S. policy toward Taiwan is governed, I cannot support the measure. This Taiwan Relations Act, effectuated a United States policy which recognized an attack against Taiwan as inimical to an attack on the United States.

Just as it is wrong to force our preferences on other countries and cultures, it is wrong to dictate politics. The United States has absolutely no moral or constitutional right to do so. In fact, action of that sort could rightfully be considered an act of aggression on our part, and our founding fathers made it very, very clear that war should be contemplated only when national security is immediately threatened. To play the part of policemen of the world degrades all who seek to follow the Constitution. The Constitution does not allow our government to participate in actions against a foreign country when there is no immediate threat to the United States.

Sadly, the U.S. has in recent years played the role of world interventionist and global policeman. Thomas Jefferson stated in his first inaugural address: "Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none, I deem [one of] the essential principles of our government, and consequently [one of] those which ought to shape its administration." Instead, the U.S. government has become the government force that unconstitutionally subsidizes one country and then pledges taxpayer dollars and lives to fight on behalf of that subsidized country's enemies. It's the same sort of wisdom that would subsidize tobacco farmers and pay the health care costs of those who then choose to smoke.

Each year the people of the United States write a check to subsidize China, one of the most brutal, anti-American regimes in the world. It has been in vogue of late for everyone in Washington, it seems, to eagerly denounce the egregious abuses of the Chinese people at the hands of the communist dictators. Yet no one in our federal government has been willing to take China on in any meaningful way. Very few people realize that China is one of the biggest beneficiaries of American subsidization. Thanks to the largesse of this Congress, China enjoys the flow of U.S. taxpayers cash into Beijing's coffers. Yet, today we are asked to pledge support for Taiwan when we could best demonstrate support for Taiwan by terminating subsidies to that country's enemies.

Again, my congratulations to the Taiwanese on their continuing efforts to develop and sustain a free republic that respects individual rights and embraces free markets and to President Lee Teng-hui for his contributions to that end.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 292 to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the successful presidential elections on March 18th and for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a democratic society which embraces free markets and respects human rights. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill and encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

I believe that the freedom of Taiwan's 22 million Chinese people to participate in the competitive election of their president is surely a reason for Congress to pass this resolution in celebration of democracy. The bill congratulates Taiwan's current President Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's "Father of Democracy," who presided over Taiwan's twin miracles of economic development and political reform. It also congratulates Taiwan's President-elect, Chen Shui-bian, and Vice President-elect, Annette Hsiu-lien Lu, on their election, which ended a half-century of one-party rule there.

I have followed these historic events in Taiwan closely and with interest. I have also been assisted in understanding these issues by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office here in Washington. This Office, and the very capable Benson Wang in particular, have provided me and my staff with straight-forward information on Taiwan and events there, which I appreciate greatly. I am hopeful that the companion measure we will vote on today, to authorize \$75 million to upgrade the American Institute in Taiwan's facilities in Taipei, will allow the U.S. to have the same high quality of representation in that country.

This peaceful transfer of power brings Taiwan to the forefront of democratic nations in Asia, and provides a shining example of freedom for mainland China and other nations in the region to follow. This free election took place despite Beijing's clumsy and counter-productive attempts to intimidate President-elect Chen and his supporters. Perhaps the government in Beijing is more concerned that this election will result in further democracy movements in China than they are about the possibility of Taiwan's independence. This is why I especially support this measure's provisions to encourage China to make progress toward democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human and religious rights.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I believe that it is important for the United States to salute and support Taiwan's democracy, and I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution. Thank you.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 292 and to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their successful presidential elections on March 18, 2000.

The election results impressively demonstrate the strength and vitality of Taiwan's democracy. I strongly support the right of the people of Taiwan to decide their own political future.

The victory for president-elect Chen Shui-bian, the candidate of the Democratic Progressive Party, and vice-president-elect, Annette Lu, a pioneering feminist and former political prisoner, symbolize the beginning of a new era in Taiwanese politics after 51 years of rule by the Nationalist Party.

The development of Taiwan from authoritarian rule to a vibrant democracy during only two decades has been truly inspiring. The