

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2004

The Hon. Jan Peter Balkenende
Prime Minister
Ministerie van Algemene Zaken
Kabinet van de Minister President
Postbus 20001
2500EA, The Hague
THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Mr. Balkenende:

On 8 December, the EU will hold a summit meeting with China. One of the major topics of discussion will be whether the EU will lift its arms embargo on China.

We understand that German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac are in favor of lifting the embargo, imposed in 1989 after the crackdown on China's democracy movement at Tiananmen Square.

We believe that Europe should take the positions of other democracies into account. The views of the U.S., Japan, and democratic nations that surround China -- such as Taiwan and South Korea -- should weigh heavily in the balance between pro and con. They clearly do not favor lifting the embargo.

We oppose such a lift for the following reasons:

First, a lift will alter the current fragile military balance across the Taiwan Strait and will rapidly tip the balance in China's favor. It goes without saying that Taiwan's security will be seriously damaged should China be able to acquire advanced weapons from Europe.

Second, a lift would aggravate the relationship between the U.S. and the EU and impact the immediate U.S. security interests in the region. Also, the Far Eastern Economic Review wrote last August that, "American officials are convinced that a lifting of the embargo could result in a Chinese People's Liberation Army equipped with advanced military systems from Europe."

And finally: the original Tiananmen Square protesters are still in jail. Lifting the ban (which after all originates from the 1989 massacre) would be tantamount to saying to those in prison that Europe does not hesitate to arm the oppressor.

November 30, 2004
page two

We urge you to use your good offices to work with your European Union colleagues to make sure that the EU arms embargo on China remains.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Stankovic

Tom Tancredo

Jim Saxton

Mark Souder

John Hostetler

Vito Marcini

Pete Sessions

Steve King

Tim Ryan

Lance Eaves

Gene Green

Shovel Brown

Earl Blumenauer

Tom Lantos

November 30, 2004
page three

Dave Camp

Melley Butley

Gil Guttent

Kevin King

Thad Mc Gill

Brad Green

Jim Culberson

Harold L. Berman

Nate Lawrence

Oh Lin

Hilda L Solis