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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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FAPA UPDATE



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*"Never doubt that a
small group of thought-
ful, committed people
can change the world.*

*Indeed, it's the only
thing that ever has!"*

~ Margaret Mead

*"The world is run by
those who show up."*

~ Unknown

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TO FAPA Members:

Dear FAPA Member:

As you all know FAPA has been supportive of arms sales to Taiwan in the past years. The US House of Representatives has unanimously passed HR 677 and HR 7059, urging Bush administration to approve the sale of F16 C/D and to release the previously approved arms sale package to Taiwan expeditiously. On Friday Oct 3rd, the Bush Administration finally notified Congress on a US\$ 6.5 billion arms package, excluding Blackhawk helicopters and submarines. However, the sale of F-16 C/D was not approved. We at FAPA welcomes this sale, because it strengthens Taiwan defense capability and Taiwan's position in negotiation with China. We also urge the Administration and Congress to move forward on the packages that were left out (F-16s, submarine, and helicopter) in order to fill the significant weak spots in Taiwan's defense. We informed STC and CTC staff.

During this month, the 110th Congress has come to an end. Many members of Congress have returned to their districts to campaign for their re-election. Except for a few places, the results of the election are now known and we are

sorry to report to you that several members of Congressional Taiwan Caucus (CTC) have lost their seats: Steve Chabot (R-OH), Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Thelma Drake (R-VA), Phil English (R-PA), Tom Feeney (R-FL), Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO), Dave Reichert (R-WA). We are particularly saddened by the loss of the re-election of Rep. Steve Chabot who co-chairs the CTC and is one of the staunchest supporters of Taiwan in the U.S. Congress. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM) who campaigned for Senate seat also lost in the bid.

We also see a number of CTC members retiring: Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Jerry Weller (R-IL), Deborah Pryce (R-OH), Vito Fossella (R-NY), Chris Cannon (R-UT), John Doolittle (R-CA), Mike Ferguson (R-NJ), Ron Lewis (R-KY), Mike McNulty (D-NY), Jim Ramstad (R-MN), and Dave Weldon (R-FL).

On the bright side, Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO) who campaigned for Senate seat won. Our good friend Robert Andrews (D-NJ) is returning to the Congress.

Because of the election the membership of the CTC has dropped to 130 from 150 as of Nov. 5.

The election has changed the US political landscape that the Democrat has now

controlled the White House and the Congress. We at headquarters are beginning to prepare for the coming new administration and new Congress in January. Needless to say, in view of the changed US political situation it is very important for all of us at FAPA to review our legislative agenda and our priority during the coming December annual Board Meeting.

This month we also saw a huge rally in Taipei, over 600,000 people, protesting the imported Chinese tainted milk powder, Ma administration's incompetence in handling the crisis, and economic woes that people in Taiwan face. People are also very nervous about the possibility that Ma may capitulate to China on Taiwan sovereignty issue in the coming meeting in Taipei between Chen Yunlin and Chiang Ben-kung. It is amazing to see that just in less than six months Ma has alienated so many Taiwanese people, and his approval rating has plummeted to less than 23%. It is apparent that the discontent is mounting. We at headquarters are monitoring the situation carefully and constantly inform members of Congress of what is happening in Taiwan.

In the meantime, the headquarters has been busy in leading an effort to stem the erosion of the hard-won freedom, democracy and human rights in Taiwan. We were successful in corralling twenty illustrious scholars from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia to publicly express their concerns for the alarming arrests of many current and former DPP officials. FAPA together with eighteen other Taiwanese-American organizations issued a timely condemnation of Ma administration's violation of Taiwanese people's basic liberties and fundamental rights during the visit of China's ARATS chief Chen Yunlin. Taiwan, under Ma, seems to be regressing to the martial law era. We must keep vigilant to prevent it from happening again.

– Executive Director

Capitol Hill Update

SENATOR MCCAIN ISSUES TAIWAN STATEMENT



On October 7, 2008, Senator John McCain issued a statement expressing support of the lifting of the arms freeze on Taiwan. The Senator wrote: *"I welcome reports indicating that the sale of defensive arms to Taiwan - a package that has been on hold for too long -- will now move forward."*

The Senator concludes: *"we should understand that the possibility of productive ties between Taiwan and China are enhanced, not diminished, when Taipei speaks from a position of strength. I believe that America should continue to sell defensive weapons to Taiwan in the future, in accordance with its security requirements, and stand by this remarkable free and democratic people."*

SENATOR OBAMA ISSUES TAIWAN STATEMENT

On October 8, Senator Barack Obama issued a similar statement: *"Senator Obama welcomes the Bush Administration's decision to notify Congress concerning the package of weapons systems for Taiwan."*



And: *"This package represents an important response to Taiwan's defense needs. This action is fully consistent with U.S. obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act. The sale helps to contribute to Taiwan's defense and the maintenance of a healthy balance in the Taiwan Strait."*

- **The Status of Congressional Resolutions:** The following is a latest summary of the co-sponsorship of Congressional resolutions of our interest. Please note that HR6646 was unanimously passed by the House and referred to Senate Committee.

Resolution	About	Number of Co-sponsors
HCR136	High level visit to the U.S. by Taiwan officials	Passed by the House
HR677	Arms sale to Taiwan	Passed by the House
HCR278	Supporting Taiwan's 4 th direct and democratic presidential election in March 2008	Passed by the House
HCR137	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	43
HCR250	Supporting Taiwan's membership in international organizations such as UN	44
HCR73	U.S. should resume diplomatic relations with Taiwan	15
HR1390	Senate confirmation of AIT Director	26
SCR48	High level visit to the U.S. by officials of Taiwan	9
SCR60	Free Trade Agreement between U.S. and Taiwan	6
HR6646	Briefing to Congress on arms transfer to Taiwan	Passed by the House
HR7059	Arms sales to Taiwan	1

FAPA Affairs

- Visits:** During the last several weeks, President Bob Yang has traveled to Irvine (CA), Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Dallas and Austin (TX) on behalf of our organization. It is always a joy to visit with members and friends of our various chapters. They offer suggestions and inspiration that we value greatly. The President has taken every opportunity to enunciate FAPA's current strategies, in hopes that our members would have suitable guidelines as they carry on their advocacy work. Special emphasis has been placed on debunking the notion that Ma Ying-jeou's election victory last March implies a wish of the people of Taiwan to "unify" with China. This is an important message that we at the grassroots level should endeavor to convey to our House Representatives and Senators.

The headquarters staff also visited chapters of West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and attended Taiwanese American Autumn Retreat in New York.

- To further expand our network, we have arranged meetings with political counselors of a number of embassies. We gave them briefings and exchanged views on issues related to Taiwan, US, and China.

- FAPA Issues Statement:** On November 1, FAPA released a statement expressing our deep concern about the erosion of Taiwan's democracy during the past half year. In particular, we are disturbed about the recent spate of politically-inspired detentions in Taiwan of present and former DPP government officials.

We stated that "*The present cases endanger the progress which has been made during the 21 years since the end of the Kuomintang's martial law in 1987. As members of the Taiwanese American community we believe that a return to the KMT's White Terror days of 1945-1987 should be avoided at all cost.*"

On November 4, we facilitated an open letter from 20 scholars and writers from the US, the US, Canada and Australia express "deep concern about the recent series of detentions in Taiwan of present and former Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government officials."

The statement continues: "*We also believe that the procedures followed by the prosecutor's offices are severely flawed: while one or two of the accused have been formally charged, the majority is being held incommunicado without being charged. This is a severe contravention of the writ of habeas corpus and a basic violation of due process, justice and the rule of law.*"

On November 7, 2008, we issued a statement co-signed by the joint Taiwanese American organizations to "express solidarity with the People of Taiwan and to condemn president Ma Ying-jeou's administration for *"trampling on Taiwan's Sovereignty, Human Rights and Freedom."*

The statement reads: *"We strongly condemn the KMT government's China policies and protest the government for denying Taiwan's sovereignty and ignoring Taiwan's human rights, freedom and democracy."*

In the statement, the organizations pledge to stand firmly with the people of Taiwan and state that they will inform the American media, elected officials and scholars about the situation and urge them to voice support for Taiwan's democracy.

- **Southwest Regional Membership Conference** was held on Oct. 19 at Atrium Hotel in Orange County California. Members from Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego chapters gathered together with Standing Committee members. Three Chapter presidents made brief reports on their chapter activities and plans. The president Bob Yang did a presentation on what FAPA has accomplished in this year. Since the meeting was just two weeks before the US Presidential election, FAPA arranged a panel discussion on the election and its implications. The panel was moderated by Peter Su, newly election CA-OC regional board member, and included Max Chiang (attorney of law), Wencheng Lin and Bob Yang as panelists. Several questions



Panelist, from left: Max Chiang (江建祥), Wencheng Lin (林文政), Bob Yang (楊英育)

were raised for panelists and general audience to discussion. The discussions were lively and thoughtful.

- **Mr. Cheng Hong-Yi (鄭弘儀) Speech Tour:** The U.S. speech tour of Mr. Cheng Hong-yi has been a rousing success. Overflowing crowds attended Mr. Cheng's presentations in New York City, Washington, D.C., Houston, Seattle and Los Angeles. Mr. Cheng's speech was inspiring and fired up the audience. He explained



the Taiwan media scene and why his talk show has the highest Nelson ranking in recent years. He believes what he talks about strikes the hearts of ordinary Taiwanese people and he believes what belongs to Taiwan would not be taken away by anybody. Those who were once depressed with the defeat of DDP in the last election and the rise of KMT have now been inspired and energized. We are grateful to Mr. Cheng Hong-yi indeed.

- **The 2008 Annual Board Meeting** will be held from December 12 to 15 in Washington D.C. As in the past, the last day of the meeting, December 15, will be the day for our Board members to visit their members of Congress.