

FAPR NEWS

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NOTES FROM A HOT AND BUSY WASHINGTON SUMMER

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy,” goes the line from the famous Porgy and Bess tune by George Gershwin. But it does not reflect this summer’s workload at headquarters.

Thanks to our energetic summer interns, (Charles Chang, Hsia-ching Liu, Joshua Wu, Yee Huang, Keimei Yang, Derek Liu, Shirley Lin, Tien-jen Chang) we produced two Taipei Times opinion pieces [one on “Bulletgate” is reproduced below and the other appeared on July 22nd and is entitled “**Rice broke new ground in Beijing.**”]

We continued to recruit new members to the Taiwan Caucus, and the total number now stands at 146.

Resolutions came thick and fast this summer. We are currently asking that you recruit your Representative as a co-sponsor of HCR 481, regarding visits by high-level Taiwanese officials to the U.S. Details on this important resolution are on page 3.

We also helped make sure that HCR462, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, passed overwhelmingly. The strong words of support for Taiwan that Members made in the floor debate were quite heartening.

Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) introduced HCR 440 “expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan.” Although there is no real chance that this resolution will make it to the floor for a vote, it does stand as an important statement of support for ultimate full-scale recognition of Taiwan.

With the US Presidential campaigns in full swing, we have also been active encouraging you to press your Members of Congress to try to influence both the Bush and Kerry campaigns regarding Taiwan.

We drafted an opinion piece on this effort for the Pacific Times. It appeared on August 19. In it we note that both the Bush and Kerry camps are

scrambling for every last “undecided” voter, particularly in the key swing states.

We encourage you to find out which Member of the Taiwan Caucus is shepherding Kerry or Bush around your state and try to make sure they whisper in the candidate’s ear about the concerns of a very important group of voters – the Taiwanese American community.

With all the polls showing the presidential race currently “to close to call,” and the undecided percentage so small that every vote will count, particularly in the key swing states. So our job is to identify strong Taiwan Congressional supporters in each of these states and get them to see the Taiwanese American voters as one key block which remains to be convinced about the candidate’s policy regarding Taiwan and that these votes “may well hinge on what the candidate says on the issue.”

In Ohio, for example, Taiwan Caucus co-chair Sherrod Brown is actively walking Democratic candidate John Kerry through this state - Ohio is vital to the hopes of any presidential aspirant. Several meetings have already been held with Rep. Brown, impressing on him the need for Kerry to clarify what his advisers have called a misstatement in the National Public Radio debate, saying that “One China, Two Systems” would work in Taiwan. Additionally, Brown has been asked to try to get Kerry to emphasize the strong statement of the Democratic Platform that calls for any resolution of the Taiwan Strait question to be “consistent with the wishes and interests of the people of Taiwan.”

One can be sure that Rep. Steve Chabot, another Taiwan Caucus co-chair, is heavily involved in President Bush’s battle to win Ohio. Taiwanese Americans should encourage Chabot to insist that Bush’s campaign put the focus on “China as the troublemaker in the Taiwan Strait,” through its missile and heavy weapons’ buildup aimed at Taiwan,

and to forcefully restate his commitment to doing "whatever it takes to help Taiwan defend itself."

Rep. Robert Wexler, truly one of the leaders of the Taiwan Caucus, is heavily engaged in seeing to it that Kerry wins Florida, as is Rep. Peter Deutsch. Taiwanese Americans should insist that Wexler and Deutsch have Kerry underscore Taiwan as a democratic ally in the war on terror - a true democracy whose presence in the international community is both appreciated and will be emphasized in a Democratic Administration.

On the other side of the coin, Republican Reps. in Florida Curt Weldon and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen surely are fighting hard to see that Bush gains Florida's electoral votes again. They need to urge Bush to return to tougher rhetoric about China as a threat to the peace and security of East Asia because of its military.

Clearly, each of the "swing" states has Members of Congress who are Taiwan's friends and should be approached to work the Republican and Democratic campaigns in that state. Nor should one forget that the active Taiwanese American populations in "non-swing" states, particularly California, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia, should

be on both Democratic and Republican radar screens. Let your voices be known and let your Members of Congress know that your friends and relatives in the Taiwanese American community of the "swing" states are being mobilized.

Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) is being touted as a potential Secretary of State if there is going to be a Democratic Administration. One couldn't find a better target. In Massachusetts, Senator Ted Kennedy has been a rock of support for Kerry and has his own long history of involvement with Taiwan. Reawakening in Kennedy his concern for human rights and democracy in Taiwan should have an impact on the Kerry campaign throughout the country.

Democracy is about active participation in the political process. Taiwanese voters have shown that they understand this and turned out at an over 82% rate in the March election. It is our turn to show our own muscle.

So, even if *your* summertime was full of easy livin', now is the time to roll up your sleeves and get crackin' to engage your Members of Congress on all these important issues.

CONGRESS WORKS TO Lift RESTRICTIONS ON HI-LEVEL VISITS BY TAIWAN'S OFFICIALS

On July 15, the House of Representatives passed HCR462 commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act by a vote of 400-18.

The resolution concludes: "Congress affirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) as the cornerstone of United States relations with Taiwan."

The resolution added, "The United States Government should not discourage current officials of the Taiwan Government from visiting the United States on the basis that doing so would violate the "one China policy."

During floor deliberations, Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) referred to the TRA as "one of Congress' most important and enduring pieces of legislation. Over

the past quarter century, the Act has served as the foundation of the United States' relationship with the people of Taiwan and has ensured the island's security."

House International Relations Committee ranking member Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) stated: "Mr. Speaker, it was a great pleasure for me to host Taiwan's Vice President, Annette Lu, during a recent visit to San Francisco. It is my fondest hope that Congress will have the honor of greeting both President Chen and Vice President Lu in Washington in the foreseeable future."

On July 23, co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced a resolution (HCR481) calling for the complete lifting of all restrictions on high-level visits from Taiwan. The resolution concludes: "That it is the sense of the Congress that the United States should lift

all restrictions on visits by high level officials of Taiwan to the United States."

And "it is in the national interests of the United States to communicate directly with democratically elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically elected president of Taiwan."

On April 21, Rep. Chabot stated in a Congressional hearing: "I had lunch in the Capitol a few weeks ago with Mr. Mark Chen, then a legislator. Today Mr. Chen is Taiwan's new foreign minister [...] and can no longer come to our Capitol on an official visit. Frankly I think that that policy is kind of silly."

The full text of **H. CON. RES. 481**

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits by democratically elected officials of Taiwan to the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 22, 2004

Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding high level visits by democratically elected officials of Taiwan to the United States.

Whereas Taiwan is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States and plays an important role in the economy of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas Taiwan routinely holds free and fair elections in a multiparty system, and on March 20, 2004, held its third democratic presidential election, in which Chen Shui-bian was re-elected as president of the 23,000,000 people of Taiwan;

Whereas Members of Congress, unlike executive branch officials, have long had the freedom to meet with leaders of governments with which the United States does not have formal relations, and these meetings provide a vital opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern that directly affect United States national interests;

Whereas the United States has acquiesced for more than two decades to demands made by the People's Republic of China to bar the president, vice president, foreign minister, and defense minister of Taiwan from coming to the United States;

Whereas, as a result of the inability of these high level officials to visit the United States, Congress loses the opportunity to communicate directly with them about developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas, considering the enormous economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States, Taiwan, and China, there could not be a more important time to find opportunities to meet with Taiwan's new leaders;

Whereas Congress must continue to play an independent oversight role in United States policy toward Taiwan and continue to find ways to reduce tensions across the Taiwan Strait, in particular to counteract the buildup of missiles by China that are pointed at Taiwan;

Whereas the policy of restricting high level officials from Taiwan from making official visits to the United States forces Members of Congress to choose whether to rely solely upon indirect assessments provided by the administration or to travel to Taiwan to obtain this information firsthand and denies the democratically elected officials of Taiwan the respect they deserve;

Whereas by bestowing upon President Chen the respect his office deserves, the United States will demonstrate to the people of Taiwan and China the support of the United States for democracy; and

Whereas the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-416) provides that the president or other high level official of Taiwan shall be welcome in the United States at any time to discuss a variety of important issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

- (1) it is in the national interests of the United States to communicate directly with democratically elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically elected president of Taiwan; and
- (2) the United States should lift all restrictions on visits by high level officials of Taiwan to the United States.

Bulletgate Missive Misses The Mark

By Ming-chi Wu

Monday, Aug 09, 2004, Page 8

Briton Sir Ernest Benn (1875-1954) once stated, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy." Benn's words very well describe the crusade Taiwan's pan-blues have entertained since President Chen Shui-bian and Vice President Annette Lu were shot on March 19 while campaigning in Tainan.

Since that fateful day, the pan-blues have held that the assassination attempt was a scam, that there were irregularities in the ballot count, that huge numbers of military personnel were kept from voting, that the invalid ballot count was suspiciously high, and that therefore the March 20 presidential elections should be nullified.

A fancy pamphlet titled "Bulletgate" has been distributed throughout the US in an attempt to win hearts and minds to the pan-blue cause. Instead of the desired outcome, however, the pan-blue diatribe has people in Washington shaking their heads.

Instead of winning over the US Congress, the think tank world and the media with "Bulletgate" the pan-blue alliance is playing Russian roulette with its own credibility. Not only has the pamphlet turned out to be an inappropriate lobby ploy, it is an embarrassment for the nation that this internal political affair was brought into US politics by the pan-blues.

The day after the publication landed in US congressional offices, we at the Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) received a copy sent to us by a Congressional office, accompanied by the comment of a staffer saying: "This is an example of how NOT to lobby."

The 2000 US presidential election was hotly contested and was finally decided by a Supreme Court vote. While many Democrats believe to this day that Al Gore should have been declared president, the whole country decided to move forward and

accept the rule of law as underscored by the Supreme Court.

US politicians and policy makers understand that Chen and his Democratic Progressive Party are committed to the rule of law and have consistently refused to use the illegal, unconstitutional means that the pan-blue alliance has suggested to resolve the 2004 election disputes. Such non-constitutional means have included asking Chen to declare a state of emergency -- which to all intents and purposes means martial law -- and using the huge powers such a declaration would give him to order a recount on his own initiative rather than use the constitutionally established procedure.

The US emphasis on the rule of law has been loud and clear, and US policymakers have shown that they trust Chen to carry out his legal responsibilities.

On March 26, the White House released a statement congratulating Chen and the people of Taiwan on the "successful conclusion of their March 20 presidential election."

The statement continued, "We recognize that there are pending legal challenges to the results of the March 20 election. We applaud the people of Taiwan for embracing established legal mechanisms and rejecting extra-legal options to resolve their differences. We reject calls for violence, which threaten the very democratic principles to which we and the people of Taiwan are committed."

At an April 21 hearing on the Taiwan Relations Act, Representative Dan Burton asked a series of questions regarding the election -- about the investigation into the shooting incident and the number of military personnel who were allegedly kept from voting. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia James Kelly gave a clear response: "[Our] view is essentially, these are questions that the people and the institutions of Taiwan are more than capable of resolving for themselves. And our view is that the process is

proceeding in which these questions are going to be resolved in a legitimate and appropriate way."

When Burton again asked about an investigation into the shooting, Kelly was even more forceful.

"Even assuming that the inauguration goes ahead on May 20, this coming December there's going to be elections for the Legislative Yuan, for the legislative body. This is going to provide another opportunity for the people of Taiwan to make their views known. So there is a system of checks and balances going on there," he said.

In short, move forward and stop whining.

On June 24, House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde introduced and passed resolution HCR462, the 25th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. The reason Hyde waited until June to introduce and pass the resolution was because he wanted to wait until the commotion surrounding Taiwan's election was over. Obviously, Hyde, along with the rest of the US Congress, had determined that Chen would be Taiwan's president for the next four years.

Five days after the passage of the TRA resolution though, the pan-blue lobbyists were still not ready to give up. Having exhausted interest in their conspiracy theory at home in Taiwan, they decided to renew their effort to take their slanderous campaign to the other side of the Pacific. As early as April, the pan-blues had begun to publish advertisements in American newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the Capitol Hill magazine *The Hill*. But when these ads seemed to fall on deaf ears, they decided to start distributing their "Bulletgate" pamphlet on Capitol Hill -- a glossy brochure full of unsubstantiated accusations.

Some in the pan-blue camp might say that they are simply lobbying for a cause on Capitol Hill, something that we at FAPA have done for over 20 years now. The crucial difference is that FAPA has always lobbied for US support for democracy for all the people of Taiwan. We have never attacked persons or political parties to score partisan points. When FAPA was established over 20 years ago,

Taiwan was under martial law and under the rule of a dictatorship. So FAPA has always brought out into the open the issues of human rights and personal and political freedoms, enabling the US to help the people of Taiwan regain their voice.

By distributing their "Bulletgate" pamphlet on Capitol Hill, the pan-blues are playing partisan politics on foreign grounds. They attack the president and his party, and thus all the president's supporters. The Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) has never refrained from hanging dirty laundry in public in a foreign country for the rest of the world to see. On Oct. 20, 2003 for instance, in a speech at a Heritage Foundation/American Enterprise Institute sponsored luncheon in Washington DC, KMT Chairman Lien Chan was notable for his rigorous criticism of Chen.

Lien fed his American audience the line that, unlike Chen, Lien himself would not be a "troublemaker," once elected and that he would be "more discreet and prudent," that he would "not add another crisis" to the security problems in East Asia.

In his speech, Lien offered not one word of criticism of the PRC. And not one word about the more than 500 Chinese missiles in Fujian Province pointed at Taiwan.

Lien's speech and the "Bulletgate" affair have sullied the KMT/PFP alliance's reputation in Washington, not that of Chen and the pan-green coalition.

Clearly, Bulletgate has missed the mark.



Comment on "Bulletgate" from the A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FRIENDLY TO TAIWAN:

<< I did read "Bulletgate." I can't believe the KMT office would send that around. Do they not understand how destructive that is? I will say, however, that it was very well done in terms of layout and stuff. >>

Urge Your Member of Congress to Write to President Chen regarding a TECRO Name Change

Dear Member of Congress:

Reps. Robert Andrews and Scott Garrett are currently recruiting support for a letter (See: below) to Taiwan's president Chen Shui-bian, in support of a new name change for the current Taiwan Representative offices in the United States from "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office" to "Taiwan Representative Office" - a name reflecting the national, rather than city-wide, representative nature of these offices.

We would greatly appreciate if you would co-sign the letter by calling Paul Bauer at 225-6501 or Chris Russell at 225-4465.

Deadline for this campaign is September 30 close of business.

Thank you for your support for Taiwan!

* * * * *

President Chen Shui-bian
Office of the President
122 Section 1, Chung-chin South Road
Taipei, Taiwan

Dear President Chen:

We understand that you have been contemplating a change in the name of your thirteen representative offices in the United States from "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office" to one reflecting the national, rather than city-wide, representative nature of these offices. The name "Taiwan Representative Office" is favored by all the major Taiwanese-American organizations many of whose members are our constituents. We are aware that you received a delegation of these organizations last year and that you are considering the adoption of "Taiwan Representative Office" as the official name of these vital offices.

We believe that this new name would more accurately convey the characteristics of these offices in the United States, and is compatible with the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act. Please know that we will make every effort to assist you and your government as you move ahead to make this change. As strong supporters of US-Taiwan relations, we look forward to further strengthening the bond between the American and Taiwanese people.

Sincerely,

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Date _____ Phone _____

Tancredo Letter to the IOC regarding Taiwan

August 14, 2004

The Honorable Jacques Rogge
President
International Olympic Committee (IOC)
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear President Rogge,

According to the Olympic Charter, the goal of the Olympic Movement is to "contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind...mutual understanding...and fair play." Unfortunately, however, the IOC has failed to live up to these tenets as evidenced by its treatment of both the people and athletes from the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC).

Since 1981 – as a result of pressure from the People's Republic of China – athletes from the ROC have been forced to compete under the name "Chinese Taipei," even though Taiwan functions as an independent nation, and is not subject to the control of the unelected government in Beijing. The playing of the ROC National Anthem and the display of the ROC national flag when Taiwanese athletes win medals is also not permitted. I understand this prohibition has even been extended to spectators in some cases, and that a student from Taiwan who waved an ROC flag during a table tennis match was subsequently ejected from the arena by security personnel in 1996. I find this very disturbing.

It is unfair and inappropriate to treat the people of Taiwan in this manner, and an indignity to their athletes – who compete just as hard as athletes from Belgium, the People's Republic of China and the United States to qualify for the games. I was also disappointed to learn that Olympic organizers kowtowed to demands from the PRC, pressuring airport officials in Athens to remove promotional posters and billboards touting Taiwan and its athletes.

The IOC and other Olympic organizers should not play politics with the games, or act as an accomplice in Communist China's illogical and obsessive effort to restrict the freedom and equality of the 23 million people who live in Taiwan. The mission of the IOC, among other things, is to promote fair play and fight discrimination. It should carry out that mission, and stop discriminating against the Republic of China's athletes and citizens.

I hope you and the rest of the committee will consider revisiting this issue, and will choose to treat the ROC athletes with same dignity and respect afforded to their counterparts from other civilized nations.

Thank you in advance and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress

FAPA President's Letter to the Unesco

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura
Director General, UNESCO
UNESCO
7 place de Fontenoy
F - 75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

August 19, 2004

Dear Mr. Matsuura:

Recently, a thirteen year old Taiwanese boy, Yang Chih-yuan, from Hsinpu Junior High School, along with five others, won the UNESCO contest marking International Peace Day. Due to pressure from Beijing though, UNESCO has dropped plans to make Yang's painting into a stamp, (as earlier stipulated) because Yang's painting includes a minuscule version of Taiwan's flag.

We are outraged to learn that UNESCO has decided to punish a boy because of Beijing's politics. There is a certain irony in the fact that Yang's stamp will now not be used to celebrate International Peace Day. "Peace" is defined as "the absence of war or other hostilities." China's behavior is a far cry from peace, as China is bringing its blatant hostility not just to Taiwan, but to this single child. UNESCO should take a stand against such childish behavior, correct the mistake and give the Taiwanese winner his prize without discrimination.

UNESCO is an international organization that has the responsibility to represent all children of the world and not the opinions of the Chinese government. We urge you not to allow China to censor children and take away their freedom of speech and expression when these are the very issues for which UNESCO fights.

We ask that you reverse your decision.

We look forward hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Ming Chi Wu, Ph. D.
President, FAPA