

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR
DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1993

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of funding for the National Endowment for Democracy. Some of our colleagues have argued that NED is not necessary. I disagree. While many of NED's supporters are focusing in this debate on the importance of a strong NED presence in the republics of the former Soviet Union, and such a presence is vitally important, I would like to speak briefly about NED's significance to the Chinese pro-democracy movement.

In fiscal year 1993, NED is spending under \$1 million for all of China. The funds support a range of initiatives by exile groups and are helping to keep the light of democracy burning bright as these exile groups educate the public in China and in the United States about China's reality today. NED funds help to document human rights abuses, to provide legal support for political prisoners inside China, and to publish magazines promoting the evolution of China toward a more open and democratic society.

I submit for the RECORD a letter to Members of Congress by Fang Lizhi, a prominent Chinese dissident, in support of the National Endowment for Democracy. I would also like to include in the RECORD a letter from Liu Binyan and Su Xiaokang, directors of the Princeton China Initiative in support of NED. These letters all attest to the importance of NED funding for the China democracy movement.

Through NED, small human rights organizations in China and in other places around the world are able to carry on their courageous and important work. By supporting human rights organizations around the world, NED helps to give voice to the voiceless. The road chosen by human rights activists is often a lonely and difficult one. It is also an essential one. Human rights activists promote respect for human rights and the rule of law in fledgling democracies. They provide hope for victims of oppression and political violence and help to pave the way to a more just and peaceful world.

More than 50 small human rights groups receive assistance from the National Endowment for Democracy. They work in China, Burma, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Zaire, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda, Russia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Cuba. Their work is important and the contributions they receive from NED are critical to their survival. I urge my colleagues not to forsake these brave people who look to the United States for guidance. Support the funding for the National Endowment for Democracy.

The letters follow:

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

Tucson, AZ, June 29, 1993.

HONORABLE MEMBER: I recently heard that the National Endowment Democracy (NED) will face a close down due to the current budget cut. As a person who has been and are pursuing Chinese democracy, I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion about this matter.

As I understand it, NED has played an important in supporting the democratic cause all over the world. The pro-democracy movements of many countries, including China, are directly encouraged by NED's efforts. It is true that the Cold War is over, but it does not mean that democracy has achieved. In fact, many countries in today's world still is ruled by an oligarchic dictatorship, still lacks freedom of speech, still has not meaningful elections, and still holds political prisoners. Therefore, NED's functions are still absolutely necessary for the leadership of the U.S. in the international affair.

I would also like to mention here a misleading, which has been circulating recently. It says that economic development will automatically lead to a democratic society. Especially, when the world economy now is sluggish, democracy and human rights as a basic principle in international affairs if frequently downplayed. For instance, considering the high economic growth in China in last few years, some people even argue that China now needs only economic development, because more economic growth will lead inevitably to democracy. It would be wonderful if democracy did indeed grow automatically out of economic development, but history gives us, unfortunately, no such guarantees. In the actuality of China today, the economic growth that we see has not in the slightest moved the current leaders in China to alter their autocratic rule.

I feel the need to stress this point because a world in which the principles of democracy and human rights are downplayed is a world that lengthens the time during which autocracy can survive. On the other hand, history has shown many times that a dictator who relies on massacre and suppression to maintain his rule at home is frequently untrustworthy in international affairs as well. In this area the problem of democracy is one of the world-wide problems, like that of environment. Without step-by-step improvement in the world-wide environment for human rights and democracy, one can not expect a complete solution of many international problems. Therefore, I would like to strongly recommend you, member of the legislators of the U.S., to approve the NED and its functions to work continually and effectively.

Sincerely,

FANG LIZHI,
Professor of Physics.

PRINCETON CHINA INITIATIVE,
Princeton, NJ, June 29, 1993.

The House of the Representatives and the Senate,
Washington, DC.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: We are exiled Chinese writers who have not been able to return to China after the June massacre in 1989. We have heard that the Congress is considering the possibility of abolishing the national endowment for Democracy. We are very surprised and deeply worried.

Since the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, the exile Chinese intellectual communities and democratic movements in exile abroad have been graciously supported by the U.S. government and the Congress, and the main channel for this support has been the National Endowment for Democracy. As far as he know, from the end of 1990, through the Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in China (of which Fang Lizhi, Chia Ling and other prominent Chinese dissidents are Board members), NED has given grants to at least eight organizations to do various projects, with grants from NED, these organizations have been able to exert significant impact on Chinese politics.

For instance, Human Rights in China, which is located in New York, has been able to provide first-hand, accurate information about human rights records and cases of human rights abuse in China by using the funds provided by NED to investigate and follow up on the developments in China. This organization invited well known dissidents inside China to join its Board of Directors, thus making a major breakthrough in the prohibition of human rights activities in China.

The Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars, with ten of thousands of members in the U.S., and also supported by NED, has been very active in protecting the rights of Chinese students and scholars. They have also played an important role in providing information and testimony during the Congressional hearings on the issue of Most Favored Nation trading status for China.

With the financial help from NED, the bi-monthly magazine "Democratic China" has published regular, furnishing information and analysis on recent developments in China to overseas Chinese readers, to the western media and to people in China through radio broadcasts in the Chinese language. "China Focus", a monthly newsletter in English published by the Princeton China Initiative, provides insiders' information and views on current events in China in a voice that is unavailable anywhere else.

Without the help from NED, the impact of these organizations and publications will be greatly diminished, and some will even cease to exist. To the exiled Chinese democracy movement which has been growing steadily since the 1989 Tiananmen Movement, the abolition of NED would be a great setback. It would have a negative impact on the whole process of China's democratization and stability.

We urgently appeal to you to continue your support of NED so that it can play an even more important role in promoting democracy in the world. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

LIU BINYAN,
Chairman, Executive
Committee.
SU XIAOKANG,
Executive Director.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.