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SENATE MEMORIAL 20

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Manny M. Aragon

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING THE CONCLUSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THAT
TIBET IS AN OCCUPIED COUNTRY UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China invaded the
independent country of Tibet in 1949-1950, has committed "acts
of genocide" in Tibet and is currently committing systematic
human rights violations in that country, including death in
detention, torture, disappearances, arbitrary arrest,
detention without public trial, denial of free speech and free
press, population transfer, coerced sterilizations and
abortions, suppression of Tibetan Buddhism, destruction of
Tibetan culture and widespread racism and discrimination
against Tibetans; and

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1 WHEREAS, the United States congress has stated that
2 "Tibet, including those areas incorporated into the Chinese
3 provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu and Qinghai, is an
4 occupied country under the established principles of
5 international law whose true representatives are the Dalai
6 Lama and the Tibetan government in exile as recognized by the
7 Tibetan people"; and

8 WHEREAS, the united nations general assembly passed
9 Resolutions 1353 (XIV), 1723 (XVI) and 2079 (XX), calling for
10 the cessation of practices that deprive the Tibetan people of
11 their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their
12 right to self-determination; and

13 WHEREAS, in December 1997, the international commission
14 of jurists reported that "repression in Tibet has increased
15 steadily since the 1994 third international forum on work in
16 Tibet" and concluded that "Tibetans are a 'people under alien
17 subjugation', entitled under international law to the right of
18 self-determination"; and

19 WHEREAS, China seeks to absorb Tibet into China and is
20 conducting economic development in Tibet contrary to the
21 wishes of the Tibetan people, and the Tibetan government-in-
22 exile advocates economic development in Tibet, but has stated
23 that development should be small-scale, decentralized
24 initiatives in which Tibetans have control and that any
25 development that intensifies and promotes the transfer of

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1 Chinese people into Tibet or that leads to the destruction of
2 Tibet's fragile environment should be opposed; and

3 WHEREAS, his holiness the Dalai Lama, recipient of the
4 1989 Nobel peace prize, has repeatedly tried to conduct
5 negotiations with China concerning the status of Tibet without
6 preconditions, but China has refused to agree to these
7 negotiations, and the Tibetan freedom movement is based on
8 Buddhist nonviolent principles, even in the face of brutal
9 Chinese repression and the Tibetan people have called upon the
10 world community to actively support their struggle for human
11 rights, economic justice and self-determination;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that it support the conclusion of the United
14 States congress that Tibet, including those areas incorporated
15 into the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu and
16 Qinghai, is an occupied country under the established
17 principles of international law whose true representatives are
18 the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile as
19 recognized by the Tibetan people; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it support the
21 recommendations of the international commission of jurists to
22 the People's Republic of China that the Chinese government:

23 A. enter into discussions with the Dalai Lama and
24 the Tibetan government-in-exile on a solution to the question
25 of Tibet based on the will of the Tibetan people;

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

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6 February 18, 1999

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8 Mr. President:

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10 Your RULES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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12 SENATE MEMORIAL 20

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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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18 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Gloria Howes, Co-Chair

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Adopted _____ Not

1 Adopted _____

2 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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6 Date _____

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9 The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

10 Yes: 7

11 No: 0

12 Excused: Altamirano

13 Absent: None

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