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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Glyn Ford and Pasqualina Napoletano

on behalf of the PSE Group

on security in the Far East

B6-0349

European Parliament resolution on security in the Far East

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the situation in the Far East region presents several sources of tension which involve China and Taiwan, Japan and the Korean Peninsula and the relationship between these countries,
- B. whereas the European Union is interested in a positive evolution in the region, leading to peaceful, negotiated solutions, especially to the nuclear issue of North Korea,
- C. noting that with the burgeoning economic and trade relationship between Europe and the Far East, peace and security in the region is increasingly vital for the EU,

North Korea

1. Is deeply concerned that North Korea declared on 10 February 2005 that it possesses nuclear weapons, and suspended its participation in the six-party talks on its nuclear programme for an indefinite period of time;
2. Notes North Korea's statement that its 'end-objective is a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula', urges it to abide by its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and urges its government and the other parties involved to take concrete steps in negotiations and to adopt a constructive approach;
3. Urges North Korea to rejoin the NPT, to revoke its decision to withdraw from the six-party talks and to allow the resumption of negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Korean peninsula;
4. Urges both North Korea and the US to enable a speedy resolution of the current crisis, initially by the US offering to recommence the supply of heavy fuel oil in exchange for the verified freezing of the Yongbyon plant, to avoid further deterioration of the current situation;
5. Calls on the Council and the Commission to offer financial support for heavy fuel oil supplies to remedy North Korea's primary energy needs, and asks the Commission and the Council to make the necessary approaches regarding EU participation in future six-party talks;

China and Taiwan

6. Reiterates the European Parliament's position on the One China Policy; expresses, nevertheless, its concern that the recent 'secession law' with the threat of the use of force against Taiwan has raised tensions in the region; urges restraint by advocates of

‘Independence’, to avoid exacerbating tensions with China;

7. Reiterates its concern at the human rights situation in China; notes that some progress has been seen in the situation over the past fifteen years; stresses that more needs to be done, and considers that the human rights dialogue between China and the EU should be coherently improved;
8. Agrees that the lifting of the arms embargo against China can only be put into effect once a new legal basis is in place and that it is subject to continued progress on human rights issues; reiterates in this connection that the Code of Conduct on arms sales has to become legally binding if it is to function effectively;
9. Expressed concern at the rising anti-Japanese feeling in the country and invites the Chinese government to do what it can to defuse the situation;
10. Urges China to support the plans for UN reform which are currently being negotiated in anticipation of the September 2005 UN summit;

Territorial disputes

11. Urges all parties to seek bilateral agreements to resolve the outstanding territorial disputes in the region, in particular:
 - (a) the return to Japan of the ‘Northern territories’, which were occupied by the then Soviet Union at the end of World War II and are currently occupied by Russia;
 - (b) the dispute between South Korea and Japan over the ownership of the Dokdo/Takeshima Islands;
 - (c) the dispute between Japan and Taiwan over the ownership of the Senkaku–Diaoyutai islands;

Japan

12. Acknowledges Japan’s increasing involvement in Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) around the globe;
13. Expresses concern that visits to the Yasukuni shrine and the revision of school textbooks to downplay Japan’s wartime role in China and Korea are giving reason to believe that Japan has not yet fully come to terms with its history;
14. Notes Japan’s understandable wish to revise the constitution drafted for it by the US Administration in the aftermath of World War II, but notes the symbolic importance of retaining a commitment to refraining from aggressive military action;
15. Concerned that the deployment of Theatre Missile Defence in Japan could contribute to a nuclear arms race in the region;
16. Urges Japan to normalise relations with North Korea as soon as possible, bearing in mind the need to resolve both the issues of the fate of the abductees and ‘compensation’ for

Japan's occupation of Korea; proposes to this end that North Korea and Japan agree to the establishment of a Joint Commission with an independent chair to resolve the outstanding 'abduction' issues;

South Korea

17. Is disturbed by rising anti-Japanese feeling in the country, and urges the ROK government to do what it can to defuse the situation;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea.