

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2232

AN ACT

To provide for increased international broadcasting
activities to China.

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Radio Free Asia Act
3 of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The Government of the People’s Republic of
7 China systematically controls the flow of information
8 to the Chinese people.

9 (2) The Government of the People’s Republic of
10 China demonstrated that maintaining its monopoly
11 on political power is a higher priority than economic
12 development by announcing in January 1996 that its
13 official news agency Xinhua, will supervise wire serv-
14 ices selling economic information, including Dow
15 Jones-Telerate, Bloomberg, and Reuters Business,
16 and in announcing in February of 1996 the “In-
17 terim Internet Management Rules”, which have the
18 effect of censoring computer networks.

19 (3) Under the May 30, 1997, order of Premier
20 Li Peng, all organizations that engage in business
21 activities related to international computer
22 networking must now apply for a license, increasing
23 still further government control over access to the
24 internet.

25 (4) Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of
26 America, as a surrogate for a free press in the Peo-

1 ple's Republic of China, provide an invaluable source
2 of uncensored information to the Chinese people, in-
3 cluding objective and authoritative news of in-coun-
4 try and regional events, as well as accurate news
5 about the United States and its policies.

6 (5) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts only
7 5 hours a day in the Mandarin dialect and 2 hours
8 a day in Tibetan.

9 (6) Voice of America currently broadcasts only
10 10 hours a day in Mandarin and 3½ hours a day
11 in Tibetan.

12 (7) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America
13 should develop 24-hour-a-day service in Mandarin,
14 Cantonese, and Tibetan, as well as further broad-
15 casting capability in the dialects spoken in the Peo-
16 ple's Republic of China.

17 (8) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, in
18 working toward continuously broadcasting to the
19 People's Republic of China in multiple languages,
20 have the capability to immediately establish 24-hour-
21 a-day Mandarin broadcasting to that nation by stag-
22 gering the hours of Radio Free Asia and Voice of
23 America.

24 (9) Simultaneous broadcasting on Voice of
25 America radio and Worldnet television 7 days a

1 week in Mandarin are also important and needed ca-
2 pabilities.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR IN-**
4 **CREASED FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE ASIA**
5 **AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTING TO**
6 **CHINA.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO
8 FREE ASIA.—

9 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There are authorized to be appropriated for “Radio
11 Free Asia” \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and
12 \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.

13 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

14 (A) Of the funds under paragraph (1) au-
15 thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998,
16 \$8,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
17 one-time capital costs.

18 (B) Of the funds under paragraph (1),
19 \$700,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
20 each such fiscal year for additional personnel to
21 staff Cantonese language broadcasting.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR
23 INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING TO CHINA AND NORTH
24 KOREA.—In addition to such sums as are otherwise au-
25 thorized to be appropriated for “International Broadcast-

1 ing Activities” for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, there are
2 authorized to be appropriated for “International Broad-
3 casting Activities” \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and
4 \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, which shall be available
5 only for enhanced Voice of America broadcasting to China
6 and North Korea.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO
8 CONSTRUCTION.—

9 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
10 addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to
11 be appropriated for “Radio Construction” for fiscal
12 years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be ap-
13 propriated for “Radio Construction” \$10,000,000
14 for fiscal year 1998 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year
15 1999, which shall be available only for construction
16 in support of enhanced broadcasting to China.

17 (2) LIMITATION.—Of the funds under para-
18 graph (1) authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
19 year 1998, \$3,000,000 is authorized to be appro-
20 priated to facilitate the timely augmentation of
21 transmitters at Tinian, the Commonwealth of the
22 Northern Mariana Islands.

23 (d) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be
24 appropriated for “International Broadcasting Activities”,
25 the Director of the United States Information Agency and

1 the Board of Broadcasting Governors shall seek to ensure
2 that the amounts made available for broadcasting to na-
3 tions whose people do not fully enjoy freedom of expres-
4 sion do not decline in proportion to the amounts made
5 available for broadcasting to other nations.

6 (e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR NORTH KOREA.—
7 Of the funds under subsection (b), \$2,000,000 is author-
8 ized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for additional
9 personnel and broadcasting targeted at North Korea.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

11 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, in consultation with the Board of Broadcast-
13 ing Governors, the President shall prepare and transmit
14 to Congress a report on a plan to achieve continuous
15 broadcasting of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America to
16 the People's Republic of China in multiple major dialects
17 and languages.

18 **SEC. 5. UTILIZATION OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**
19 **BROADCASTING SERVICES FOR PUBLIC**
20 **SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING FU-**
21 **GITIVES FROM UNITED STATES JUSTICE.**

22 United States international broadcasting services,
23 particularly the Voice of America, shall produce and
24 broadcast public service announcements, by radio, tele-
25 vision, and Internet, regarding fugitives from the criminal

1 justice system of the United States, including cases of
2 international child abduction.

Passed the House of Representatives November 9,
1997.

Attest:

Clerk.