

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4454

To authorize appropriations to expand and enhance United States international broadcasting operations around the world, specifically enhancing the depth and scope of programming throughout the People's Republic of China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2000

Mr. PORTER (for himself and Mr. BEREUTER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize appropriations to expand and enhance United States international broadcasting operations around the world, specifically enhancing the depth and scope of programming throughout the People's Republic of China.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) A fundamental prerequisite to political and
6 economic freedom is an informed citizenry. In many
7 countries around the world basic freedoms are de-
8 nied, including access to information. One of the

1 best and most cost-effective ways to help enhance
2 the respect for human rights abroad is to dissemi-
3 nate reliable information that serves to foster the
4 spirit of democracy in closed societies. By doing so,
5 not only is the United States interest served by help-
6 ing to spread democracy, but democratic activists
7 are also empowered to challenge the status quo.

8 (2) Currently, United States international
9 broadcasting broadcasts in 61 languages around the
10 world.

11 (3) Research shows that for international
12 broadcasting to reach the greatest number of people,
13 enhanced marketing must take place. Marketing
14 which will allow the potential audience to find the
15 programming on the appropriate frequency, channel,
16 or web site needs to be enhanced. Marketing efforts
17 abroad for placement on local affiliate networks need
18 to be developed. The base of international broad-
19 casting audiences must continue to be broadened to
20 recruit new listeners, and, particularly, to target the
21 younger generation.

22 (4) When crises arise around the world, such as
23 the Kosova crisis in 1999, United States inter-
24 national broadcasting has no means to respond to
25 such crises in a timely manner. Currently, budget

1 resources are shifted internally, pulling resources
2 away from others sources.

3 (5) Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of
4 America, as a surrogate for a free press in the Peo-
5 ple’s Republic of China, provide an invaluable source
6 of uncensored information to the Chinese people, in-
7 cluding objective and authoritative news of in-coun-
8 try and regional events, as well as accurate news
9 about the United States and its policies.

10 (6) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts 24-
11 hours a day in China, with 12 hours in Mandarin,
12 8 hours in Tibetan, 3 hours in Cantonese and 1
13 hour in Uygur.

14 (7) According to a 1990 census, 4.8 million
15 Mongolians live in China, and there is no service in
16 their native language available.

17 (8) Radio Free Asia’s “call in listen” programs
18 reported an average of over 27,200 calls per month,
19 for the months in the beginning of 2000. However,
20 less than 2 percent of those callers were able to
21 reach Radio Free Asia and voice their opinion.

22 (9) Voice of America currently broadcasts 84
23 hours per week in Mandarin, 28 hours per week in
24 Tibetan and 14 hours per week in Cantonese. Voice

1 of America's Mandarin TV service includes 1-hour
2 programming, five days a week.

3 (10) Currently neither RFA nor VOA have a
4 news bureau in Taipei or Shanghai.

5 (11) Signals of all United States international
6 broadcasting programs often have difficulty being re-
7 ceived due to widespread jamming practices of op-
8 pressive government regimes. If stronger frequencies
9 are used or if the broadcastings can come from var-
10 ious angles, the reception will be increased in the
11 targeted areas.

12 (12) The Internet is the critical future of the
13 development and exchange of ideas throughout the
14 world. The same jamming problem exists for the web
15 sites. Mirror sites must be set up to ensure that the
16 Internet is accessible to as many people as possible.

17 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) BROADCASTING CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS.—In
19 addition to such sums as may otherwise be authorized to
20 be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated
21 for “Department of State and Related Agency, Related
22 Agency, Broadcasting Board of Governors, Broadcasting
23 Capitol Improvements” \$65,000,000 for the fiscal year
24 2001 which is authorized to remain available until ex-
25 pended.

1 (b) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS.—

2 (1) In addition to such sums as are otherwise
3 authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized
4 to be appropriated \$34,000,000 for each of the fiscal
5 years 2000 and 2001 for “Department of State and
6 Related Agency, Related Agency, Broadcasting
7 Board of Governors, International Broadcasting Op-
8 erations” for the purposes under paragraph (2).

9 (2) In addition to other authorized purposes,
10 funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
11 be used for the following:

12 (A) To increase personnel for the Program
13 Development Office to enhance marketing pro-
14 gramming.

15 (B) To strengthen Radio Free Asia’s pres-
16 ence in Asia including expanding news research,
17 production, expansion of call-in shows capability
18 and website/Internet enhancement.

19 (C) VOA enhancements, including the
20 opening of four new news bureaus in Asia, en-
21 hancement of TV Mandarin, and an increase of
22 stringer presence abroad.

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