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114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2426

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. CORKER, without amendment

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

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. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZA-**
3 **TION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) Safety, security and peace is important to
7 every citizen of the world, and shared information
8 ensuring wide assistance among police authorities of
9 nations for expeditious dissemination of information
10 regarding criminal activities greatly assists in these
11 efforts.

12 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in the
13 International Criminal Police Organization
14 (INTERPOL) is beneficial for all nations and their
15 police authorities. Internationally shared information
16 with authorized police authorities is vital to peace-
17 keeping efforts.

18 (3) With a history dating back to 1914, the role
19 of INTERPOL is defined in its constitution: “To
20 ensure and promote the widest possible mutual as-
21 sistance between all criminal police authorities with-
22 in the limits of the laws existing in the different
23 countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declara-
24 tion of Human Rights.”.

25 (4) Ongoing international threats, including
26 international networks of terrorism, show the ongo-

1 ing necessity to be ever inclusive of nations willing
2 to work together to combat criminal activity. The
3 ability of police authorities to coordinate, preempt,
4 and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element
5 of crisis prevention and response.

6 (5) Taiwan maintained full membership in
7 INTERPOL starting in 1964 through its National
8 Police Administration but was ejected in 1984 when
9 the People's Republic of China (PRC) applied for
10 membership.

11 (6) Nonmembership prevents Taiwan from
12 gaining access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police
13 communications system, which provides real-time in-
14 formation on criminals and global criminal activities.
15 Taiwan is relegated to second-hand information from
16 friendly nations, including the United States.

17 (7) Taiwan is unable to swiftly share informa-
18 tion on criminals and suspicious activity with the
19 international community, leaving a huge void in the
20 global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire
21 world at risk.

22 (8) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Pol-
23 icy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-
24 wan's participation in appropriate international or-

1 organizations and has consistently reiterated that sup-
2 port.

3 (9) Following the enactment of Public Law
4 108–235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to
5 initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain
6 observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of
7 the World Health Assembly and subsequent advo-
8 cacy by the United States, Taiwan was granted ob-
9 server status to the World Health Assembly for six
10 consecutive years since 2009. Both prior to and in
11 its capacity as an observer, Taiwan has contributed
12 significantly to the international community’s collec-
13 tive efforts in pandemic control, monitoring, early
14 warning, and other related matters.

15 (10) INTERPOL’s constitution allows for ob-
16 servers at its meetings by “police bodies which are
17 not members of the Organization”.

18 (b) TAIWAN’S PARTICIPATION IN INTERPOL.—The
19 Secretary of State shall—

20 (1) develop a strategy to obtain observer status
21 for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related
22 meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter; and

23 (2) instruct INTERPOL Washington to offi-
24 cially request observer status for Taiwan in
25 INTERPOL and to actively urge INTERPOL mem-

1 ber states to support such observer status and par-
2 ticipation for Taiwan.

3 (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR
4 TAIWAN IN INTERPOL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
6 transmit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, de-
7 scribing the United States strategy to endorse and obtain
8 observer status for Taiwan in appropriate international or-
9 ganizations, including INTERPOL, and at other related
10 meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter. The re-
11 port shall include the following:

12 (1) A description of the efforts the Secretary
13 has made to encourage member states to promote
14 Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status in appro-
15 priate international organizations, including
16 INTERPOL.

17 (2) A description of the actions the Secretary
18 will take to endorse and obtain observer status for
19 Taiwan in appropriate international organizations,
20 including INTERPOL, and at other related meet-
21 ings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter.