

114TH CONGRESS
1ST 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 and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTER-**
4 **NATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZA-**
5 **TION.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) Safety, security and peace is important to
9 every citizen of the world, and shared information

1 ensuring wide assistance among police authorities of
2 nations for expeditious dissemination of information
3 regarding criminal activities greatly assists in these
4 efforts.

5 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in the
6 International Criminal Police Organization
7 (INTERPOL) is beneficial for all nations and their
8 police authorities. Internationally shared information
9 with authorized police authorities is vital to peace-
10 keeping efforts.

11 (3) With a history dating back to 1914, the role
12 of INTERPOL is defined in its constitution: “To
13 ensure and promote the widest possible mutual as-
14 sistance between all criminal police authorities with-
15 in the limits of the laws existing in the different
16 countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declara-
17 tion of Human Rights.”.

18 (4) Ongoing international threats, including
19 international networks of terrorism, show the ongo-
20 ing necessity to be ever inclusive of nations willing
21 to work together to combat criminal activity. The
22 ability of police authorities to coordinate, preempt,
23 and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element
24 of crisis prevention and response.

1 (5) Taiwan maintained full membership in
2 INTERPOL starting in 1964 through its National
3 Police Administration but was ejected in 1984 when
4 the People's Republic of China (PRC) applied for
5 membership.

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

12 (7) Taiwan is unable to swiftly share informa-
13 tion on criminals and suspicious activity with the
14 international community, leaving a huge void in the
15 global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire
16 world at risk.

17 (8) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Pol-
18 icy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-
19 wan's participation in appropriate international or-
20 ganizations and has consistently reiterated that sup-
21 port.

22 (9) Following the enactment of Public Law
23 108-235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to
24 initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain
25 observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of

1 the World Health Assembly and subsequent advoca-
2 cacy by the United States, Taiwan was granted ob-
3 server status to the World Health Assembly for six
4 consecutive years since 2009. Both prior to and in
5 its capacity as an observer, Taiwan has contributed
6 significantly to the international community’s collec-
7 tive efforts in pandemic control, monitoring, early
8 warning, and other related matters.

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

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

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

17 (2) instruct INTERPOL Washington to offi-
18 cially request observer status for Taiwan in
19 INTERPOL and to actively urge INTERPOL mem-
20 ber states to support such observer status and par-
21 ticipation for Taiwan.

22 (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR
23 TAIWAN IN INTERPOL.—Not later than 90 days after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
25 transmit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, de-

1 scribing the United States strategy to endorse and obtain
2 observer status for Taiwan in appropriate international or-
3 ganizations, including INTERPOL, and at other related
4 meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter. The re-
5 port shall include the following:

6 (1) A description of the efforts the Secretary
7 has made to encourage member states to promote
8 Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status in appro-
9 priate international organizations, including
10 INTERPOL.

11 (2) A description of the actions the Secretary
12 will take to endorse and obtain observer status for
13 Taiwan in appropriate international organizations,
14 including INTERPOL, and at other related meet-
15 ings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter.

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