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S. RES. 122

Reaffirming the importance of United States alliances and partnerships.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2021

Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 24, 2021

Reported by Mr. MENENDEZ, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble

MAY 11, 2022

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the importance of United States alliances and partnerships.

Whereas, from the American Revolution, through two World Wars, the Cold War, and the fight against international terrorist organizations, the United States has successfully relied on alliances and partnerships with like-minded countries to further our vital security, political, and economic interests, starting with the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778 and continuing to the present day;

Whereas these treaty alliances provide a unique strategic advantage to the United States and are among the Nation's

most precious assets, enabling the United States to advance its vital national interests, defend its territory, expand its economy through international trade and commerce, establish enduring cooperation among like-minded countries, prevent the domination of Europe or the Indo-Pacific and its surrounding maritime and air lanes by a hostile power or powers, and deter potential aggressors;

Whereas United States treaty alliances advance critical shared interests, including upholding regional stability and security, deterring adversaries, maintaining maritime freedom of navigation, promoting global economic prosperity, combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, supporting international institutions and architecture, advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, upholding international law, and promoting shared values and norms;

Whereas the combined strength conferred by treaty alliances enables the United States and its allies to leverage a multinational response to important challenges and advance joint initiatives that tackle global problems with a unity of purpose;

Whereas, after the end of the Second World War, the United States Government strategically invested in building a global network of alliances and partnerships, including through the Marshall Plan in Europe and with our post-war partners in Asia, which helped these countries grow into democratic, prosperous, peaceful nations with whom the United States could effectively partner;

Whereas the United States-Japan, United States-Republic of Korea, United States-Australia, United States-Philippines, and United States-Thailand alliances are the foundation of regional stability in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas the United States greatly values other partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, including with India, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States maintains an unwavering commitment to the defense of Japan under Article 5 of the United States-Japan security treaty, which includes the Senkaku Islands, as recently reaffirmed by President Joseph R. Biden;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is one of the most important political, economic, and military alliances in the world, the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, and is crucial to maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region and advancing a free and open region characterized by a commitment to democratic governance, the free flow of commerce, and shared rules and norms;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is the linchpin of peace, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region and is critical to closely coordinating to face the challenges posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and addressing future security challenges;

Whereas the United States-Australia alliance remains an anchor of stability in the Indo-Pacific and the world, while Australia's 2020 Defense Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan recognize and respond to Australia's evolving strategic threat environment, including by committing to boost its defense spending by 40 percent over the next decade and to bolster its high-end military capabilities, which provides further opportunities for the United States and Australia to boost cooperation on defense and strategic and emerging technologies;

Whereas a strong United States-Philippine alliance is vital to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) is important for the security of both nations, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken has reaffirmed former Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo's March 2019 statement regarding the clear application of the MDT to armed attacks against Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the Pacific, which includes the South China Sea;

Whereas the Philippines is of unique geostrategic importance, is a crucial partner in the areas of counterterrorism and maritime security, and plays an important role in upholding regional security in the South and West Pacific, including the First and Second Island Chains, and a strong relationship between the United States military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, solidified through agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and the Visiting Forces Agreement, is in the national interests of both the Philippines and the United States;

Whereas the United States and Thailand are increasing their defense cooperation to advance shared interests in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to strengthen its relationships, including defense relationships, with treaty allies and other partners in Southeast Asia, especially through cooperation that enables these partners to better contend with infringements on their sovereignty, including by encouraging allies to make specific investments to enhance their area denial and mobile defense-in-depth capabilities;

Whereas, in 1949, the United States joined with several European countries to conclude the North Atlantic Treaty, which formed a basis for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in order “to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law” and to “promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area”;

Whereas 30 European and North American nations are members of NATO, and all signatories to the North Atlantic Treaty have “resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security”;

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NATO alliance invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty for the first and only time, reaffirming that an armed attack against one member of the alliance shall be considered an attack against all;

Whereas NATO serves as a force multiplier, reducing the burden borne by the United States, has command structures, training institutions, and multilateral exercises that have generated unprecedented contributions to United States national security priorities and enabled NATO soldiers to serve alongside members of the United States Armed Forces, including through NATO’s ongoing support of Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan, NATO’s Kosovo Force, Operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea, the capacity-building NATO Mission Iraq, support for African Union missions, and air policing missions in member and nonmember nations of Eastern Europe, and has taken a strong stand against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe;

Whereas, in his February 19, 2021, speech to the Munich Security Conference, President Biden reaffirmed, “The transatlantic alliance is . . . the strong foundation on which our collective security and our shared prosperity are built. The partnership between Europe and the United States, in my view, is and must remain the cornerstone of all that we hope to accomplish in the 21st century, just as we did in the 20th century. . . . The United States is fully committed to our NATO Alliance, and I welcome Europe’s growing investment in the military capabilities that enable our shared defense.”;

Whereas previous Democratic and Republican Administrations alike have recognized that strong, healthy, and politically sustainable alliances require equitable, fair, reasonable, and mutually beneficial burden-sharing arrangements, and that the key to alliance success is a diplomatic and security posture characterized by the effective marshaling of resources and acquisition and deployment of complementary capabilities, such as the increase in defense spending by all NATO nations since the Wales Declaration of 2014, with 11 members now spending 2 percent of their GDP on defense and several more on track to meet that benchmark by 2024;

Whereas the United States extended nuclear deterrence commitments to NATO and Indo-Pacific allies are foundational to the health, strength, and effectiveness of these alliances and to continued international security and stability;

Whereas maintaining robust United States diplomatic, economic, and defense budgets are critical to advancing cooperation with allies and partners on shared challenges, and deep and precipitous cuts in United States diplo-

matic, economic, and defense budgets would damage the health, robustness, and effectiveness of United States alliances;

Whereas, in a sign of our shared security objectives and cooperation, our allies and partners have hosted United States military installations and welcomed members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas citizens of our allies and partners have sacrificed their lives in support of efforts to combat terrorism and promote security in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, and have contributed significant forces to our military endeavors, placing more combat power on the battlefield, while reducing the burden borne by the United States;

Whereas the United States has worked with our allies and partners to mitigate conflict and humanitarian crises around the world, and United States allies have made significant contributions to address humanitarian, food security, health, climate-related, and other pressing challenges around the world;

Whereas the United States and its allies face an increasingly challenging security environment in the 21st century, characterized by strategic competition with revisionist powers such as the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, which seek to destabilize the international system;

Whereas this security environment demands United States and allied commitment to strengthening and advancing our alliances so that they are postured to meet these challenges, and will require sustained political will, concrete partnerships, economic, commercial, and technological cooperation, consistent and tangible commitments,

high-level and extensive consultations on matters of mutual interest, mutual and shared cooperation in the acquisition of key capabilities important to allied defenses, and unified mutual support in the face of political, economic, or military coercion;

Whereas, on February 4, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden stated that United States diplomacy, including with allies and partners, will be “rooted in America’s most cherished democratic values: defending freedom, championing opportunity, upholding universal rights, respecting the rule of law, and treating every person with dignity,” and that United States foreign policy will “better unite our democratic values with our diplomatic leadership”; and

Whereas successive generations of leaders of the United States and its allies have successfully managed the challenges and constraints inherent in alliances, thus ensuring that the benefits of alliances outweigh the costs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms the enduring commitment of the
3 United States to our treaty allies in the Indo-Pacific
4 region and NATO, as well as to other partners, in-
5 cluding our treaty obligations for mutual defense;

6 (2) emphasizes the primary importance of the
7 United States relationships, alliances, and partner-
8 ships to global peace and prosperity;

9 (3) recognizes the many contributions that alli-
10 ances and partnerships have made to advance the in-

1 terests of the United States and to promote shared
2 interests;

3 (4) underscores that alliances have enhanced
4 mutual security by jointly sharing in common de-
5 fense, including the defense of the United States,
6 and that strong alliances and partnerships generate
7 decisive and sustained United States military advan-
8 tages;

9 (5) encourages dealing constructively with sig-
10 nificant tensions in the United States alliance rela-
11 tionships to ensure they do not create fissures that
12 adversaries can exploit;

13 (6) welcomes and seeks to advance the contin-
14 ued collaboration of the United States and our allies
15 and partners to respect and defend the rules-based
16 international order and the values of democracy,
17 human rights, and the rule of law that undergird
18 our common security and prosperity;

19 (7) reaffirms bipartisan support for equitable
20 and mutually beneficial burden-sharing arrange-
21 ments, including fair and additional substantive con-
22 tributions by United States allies, and acknowledges
23 the special measures agreements (SMA) reached by
24 the Biden Administration with Japan and the Re-
25 public of Korea, and urges ongoing consultations to

1 consider additional allied contributions beyond the
2 traditional SMA categories and to use these con-
3 sultations as an opportunity to strengthen our alli-
4 ances with these two partners;

5 (8) reaffirms the commitment of the United
6 States to strengthening and boosting our alliances
7 and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, including to
8 contend with China's growing power projection capa-
9 bilities and use of coercive and grey-zone tactics, and
10 to jointly develop, regulate, and monitor the produc-
11 tion, use, and protection of strategic and emerging
12 technologies;

13 (9) encourages the Biden Administration to
14 focus significantly on growing defense cooperation
15 with Australia, especially in light of the country's
16 2020 Defense Strategic Update, and to build on
17 United States-Japan initiatives that advance alliance
18 defense cooperation that contributes to a free and
19 open Indo-Pacific, and to further boost cooperation
20 with both allies on the research, development, and
21 regulation of strategic and emerging technologies,
22 including defense technologies;

23 (10) reaffirms the commitment of the United
24 States to the NATO alliance and to NATO efforts
25 to counter Kremlin aggression, including military

1 aggression and attempts to erode democratic institu-
2 tions in the United States and other NATO member
3 states;

4 (11) urges the Biden Administration to work
5 with its NATO partners to advance the efforts cur-
6 rently underway within NATO to better prepare the
7 alliance to confront future and emerging challenges,
8 and to continue to encourage NATO nations to con-
9 tribute more to the alliance and improve their capa-
10 bilities;

11 (12) calls upon Indo-Pacific and NATO allies to
12 collaborate with the United States in developing the
13 next generation of defense technologies, including
14 disruptive and emerging technologies, while working
15 together to improve multilateral export controls,
16 common standards for technology security, and
17 norms and standards for new and emerging tech-
18 nologies;

19 (13) asks all members of NATO, including the
20 United States, to devote significant energy to the de-
21 velopment of a new, forward-looking strategy to re-
22 place the 2010 Strategic Concept and focus on the
23 many emerging challenges that face the alliance, in-
24 cluding China, Russia, and instability on Europe's
25 southern border;

1 (14) calls on the Biden Administration to en-
2 sure United States policy and posture reflects the
3 requirements of extended deterrence to preserve non-
4 proliferation benefits, assure allies, and to deter, and
5 if necessary, respond, across the spectrum of nuclear
6 and nonnuclear scenarios in defense of allies and
7 partners;

8 (15) supports maintaining robust diplomatic,
9 economic, and defense budgets as critical to advanc-
10 ing cooperation with allies and partners on shared
11 challenges; and

12 (16) reaffirms United States commitment to
13 the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights,
14 adopted at Paris on December 10, 1948, and the
15 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
16 adopted by the United States on December 16,
17 1966, and ratified by the United States on June 8,
18 1992, and welcomes similar commitments from its
19 allies and partners.

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