

Refugee-Related Excerpts from the House Foreign Affairs Committee 112th Congress Oversight Plan

Adopted by the Committee on February 8, 2011

PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS

North Korea – The Committee will review the nuclear and missile threat posed by North Korea, its proliferation activities and weapon sales involving rogue regimes and designated terrorist organizations, its continuing human rights violations, and U.S. efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The Committee will review ongoing diplomatic efforts, including the inter-Korean dialogue, the implementation of the nuclear dismantlement and disarmament agreement, the succession issue, and will examine next steps in U.S. policy to address the North Korean threat.

Assessing a Rising China - The Committee will review the degree to which China has failed to become a responsible stakeholder in the international system of states in dealing with situations such as in Iran, North Korea, Burma, and Sudan. It will also review China's continued military buildup, growing role in Africa and the Western Hemisphere, and China's growing role in the world economy, including trade and currency issues which adversely affect the American workforce. The Committee will also review human rights, including suppression of the Tibetans, Uyghurs, Falun Gong, North Korean refugees and political, religious and internet dissidents, corruption, environmental damage and social unrest in China. Assess U.S. policy in reducing the role of China in the proliferation of WMD and missiles, especially with regard to Iran and North Korea.

Human Rights and Democracy – In both hearings and staff-level oversight activities, the Committee will examine the content and efficacy of annual, statutory human rights reporting, including the “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices,” the “Annual Report on International Religious Freedom,” and the “Trafficking in Persons Report.” The Committee will review implementation, compliance, and reporting, and – where necessary – will reauthorize and revise key human rights statutes, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and other statutes, as appropriate. The Committee will assess U.S. refugee and asylum policy generally, and specific refugee-protection efforts as events and circumstances dictate. The Committee will review U.S. activities to promote democracy and human rights protections around the world, and critically assess U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights mechanisms, to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote fundamental human rights and freedoms. Pursuant to a new Committee rule, the Committee will require each of its regional subcommittees to hold hearings on regional human rights issues at least twice a year.

Burma – The Committee will monitor the lack of democratic progress following the 2010 highly flawed election, the continued egregious human rights violations of the Burmese junta, the continued flow of refugees from Burma, the regime's treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi and of political prisoners, and the implementation of sanctions as mandated in the Block Burmese JADE Act and previous legislation, and the engagement policy of the Administration.