

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his leadership in this issue. The world's most important relationship over the next 20 years will be between the United States, the world's greatest military power and economic power, and China, the world's oldest culture and largest population. The change in China since Nixon began diplomatic and economic engagement has been nothing short of phenomenal.

The forces of change and reform will win out sooner if the United States is engaged than if we play into the hands and forces of repression. Isolation simply does not work. In South Africa, it took all of the world's developed powers coalesced against a relatively small country to change apartheid.

The rest of the world does not agree with us on China. We cannot even force change in Cuba, a tiny country with an aging dictator and a population about the size of Michigan. The United States could accelerate change in China, and that will not just have significant benefits for our businesses, it will also benefit the environment. But that takes modern technology and investment, services that the Chinese need that we are good at and that will improve their environment while it provides us with economic opportunities.

Over half a century ago, the Marshall Plan invested not just in our devastated allies but in our defeated enemies in Europe. The Russians, however, denied us a partnership in Eastern Europe because they knew it would hasten the emergence of democracies and free enterprise.

Today, after having spent trillions of American tax dollars to win the Cold War, we have an opportunity to accept an offer from the forces of Chinese reform. Approval of normal trade relations will not change China overnight. We will have to remain vigilant to make sure we use every tool we have to make sure the Chinese adhere to the agreement, but it will give us firmer footing in the Chinese economy, it will give us beachheads and inroads of the type that so terrified Stalin and continue to terrify the Chinese dictators. A vote for permanent normal trade relations will hasten human rights, environmental protection and a stronger economy in China and the United States.