

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

1979

Source

SR 4

Senate

Resolve No.

SR 3



Objecting to the termination of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of China.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS the people of the Republic of China have built a successful, prosperous, free economy out of the ashes of a half century of revolution, invasion and civil war and now serve as an important trading partner of the American people; and

WHEREAS the people of the Republic of China have been among the most trusted friends and allies of the people of the United States since the founding of the Chinese Republic in 1912; and

WHEREAS the Republic of China is of strategic importance in the defense of East Asia and the Pacific, has always utilized its military power in the interests of the free world, and has, since 1954, been a party with the United States to a Mutual Defense Treaty; and

WHEREAS, as recently as September, 1978, the United States Congress, without a dissenting vote, endorsed section 26 of the International Security Assistance Act of 1978, incorporating a statement of the sense of the United States Congress that there be consultation between the President and Congress on proposed policy changes affecting the rights, obligations, and relationships of the parties to the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1954; and

WHEREAS, in December, 1978, the President, without prior consultation with Congress, announced termination of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1954 with the Republic of China in connection with the federal government's recognition of the People's Republic of China, effective January 1, 1979; and

WHEREAS unilateral executive renunciation of the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty constitutes a challenge by the federal executive to the rights and prerogatives of the Congress of the United States under the Constitution and the International Security Assistance Act;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that the United States Congress explore all opportunities toward maintaining in full force and effect existing treaties and agreements between the United States and the Republic of China, and that every effort be made by Congress to encourage strengthening of economic and trade relationships between the two nations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States continue to recognize the Republic of China by extending diplomatic and commercial relations usually accorded other independent nations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government use its best efforts to assure that relations between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China occur without threat of force or aggression and that the future of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan is peaceful and prosperous; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress conduct a thorough inquiry of the precipitous action taken by the President of the United States in unilaterally terminating obligations with the Republic of China under the 1954 Mutual Defense Treaty to assure that similar acts of the federal executive in contravention of the authority of Congress and the rights of the American people under the Constitution do not occur in the future.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, President Pro Tempore of the U. S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Frank Church, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.