

Introduced: 3/18/63

1 IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS BRONSON, FOSTER,
WALSH AND HOPSON

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the air defense of
6 the nation in Northwestern Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

8 WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska delegation in
9 Congress have continually expressed their alarm and complained to
10 federal defense officials regarding the defense gap along the
11 western and northern coasts of Alaska; and:

12 WHEREAS, the western and northern coasts of Alaska are the
13 back door to the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, it has been established for years that Soviet Russia
15 has ringed western Alaska with air bases along the coast of and
16 throughout Soviet Siberia posing a continuing threat to Alaska's
17 meager interior defenses which are the defense frontier of the
18 nation; and

19 WHEREAS, while official attention is showered on a few
20 Russian troops 60 miles from Florida and Soviet air surveillance
21 of American ships at sea, Soviet reconnaissance planes have been
22 flying over the American defense frontier territory of Southwestern
23 Alaska; and

24 WHEREAS, the area flown over by the Russians is without any
25 American military base and the nearest defense bases are from
26 700 to 1,000 miles distant; and

27 WHEREAS, this entire frontier area so close to Russian bases
28 is not immediately served by American reconnaissance and inter-
29 ceptor forces which are considered essential in the Caribbean area;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, there is a former Air Force airfield now available
3 at Nome which along with other sites along this defense perimeter
4 could and should be used for the stationing of fighter interceptor
5 and reconnaissance squadrons;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President
7 of the United States, is most respectfully urged to take immediate
8 action for the realistic defense of this back door of the nation
9 by ordering that the Secretary of Defense locate two or three air
10 fighter interceptor and reconnaissance squadrons along the north-
11 west coast of Alaska; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be directed
13 to the Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice President of the United
14 States and President of the Senate; the Honorable John W. McCormack,
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert S.
16 McNamara, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Richard Russell,
17 Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; the Honorable
18 Carl Vinson, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; and
19 the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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