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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MALONE, HAYES AND MILLER

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to actions of the Bolivian
6 government.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the military regime headed by General Luis Garcia Meza has in-
9 terrupted Bolivia's progress toward democracy and constitutional government
10 by overthrowing a civilian interim government on July 17, 1980; and

11 WHEREAS the Bolivian regime has engaged in mass arrests, torture,
12 repression of civil rights, executions, censorship, religious harassment,
13 and violence inflicted on the people of Bolivia; and

14 WHEREAS the continued suppression of civil and human rights is generat-
15 ing support for communism as an alternative form of government; and

16 WHEREAS the Bolivian regime is reported by the United States State
17 Department to have significant connections with drug traffickers; and

18 WHEREAS Amnesty International has estimated that at least 1,000 arrests
19 have been made in Bolivia since July 17, 1980, and has requested that the
20 Bolivian government compile and release a list of persons imprisoned or
21 killed; and

22 WHEREAS the United Nations International Labor Organization has asked
23 the Bolivian regime for permission to investigate alleged violations of
24 trade union rights; and

25 WHEREAS two American priests from the Maryknoll Mission in Ossining,
26 New York, Father William J. Coy and Father John C. Moynihan, have been
27 arrested in Bolivia without charges, and, although they have been released
28 they fear further harassment if they re-enter the country; and

29 WHEREAS the Bolivian regime has reportedly detained and harassed jour-

1 nalists from other countries, including the United States; and

2 WHEREAS the United States State Department has reported that the
3 Bolivian regime has threatened by implication United States citizens in
4 Bolivia; and

5 WHEREAS the United States State Department has taken steps against the
6 regime in Bolivia, including terminating military assistance, curtailing
7 economic assistance, and reducing the official United States presence in La
8 Paz;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports United States
10 Representative Richard L. Ottinger's resolution urging that the United
11 States not reestablish at a normal level an official presence in Bolivia and
12 not furnish any military or economic assistance which has been terminated
13 since the Bolivian regime assumed power on July 17, 1980, unless the
14 President determines that civil rights have been restored to the people of
15 Bolivia, United States citizens who have been detained for political reasons
16 have been released and the Bolivian regime has promised that no reprisals
17 will be taken against them, the democratic process has been restored in
18 Bolivia, and the reported involvement of the Bolivian regime in international
19 drug conspiracies has been properly assessed.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
21 President of the United States; the Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, U.S.
22 Representative, and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
23 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
24 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.