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Formosa Resolution

Strom Thurmond

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Passage of this resolution means that the Congress is supporting the firm stand being taken by the Administration. Since 1950 the United Nations and the United States have given the communists every opportunity to demonstrate their friendship in the Far East and in other parts of the world. These opportunities have been disregarded by the Reds as so tragically illustrated by the imprisonment of the eleven American airmen in China.

The actions of the Communists indicate they have mistaken patience as a sign of appeasement. Although this resolution in no wise casts aside our patience, it does remove any doubt on the part of the communists that the United States is an appeaser. It evidences our firmness.

This statement of firmness simply demonstrates solidarity: That the American people, through their elected representatives to the Congress, are unified and dedicated to freedom and democracy against the degradation of communism. The statement is clear to all the world that the United States is willing to meet its solemn obligations to our allies.

The fear which permeates the world today comes not as a result of the efforts of the United States to maintain
peaceful relations with the other nations of the world. That fear is the result of the aggressive and war-like actions of the communists in the Far East and elsewhere.

This resolution is not an act of aggression. Rather it is a step toward the preservation of peace.

If the communists continue their encroachments against the Pescadores and Formosa after passage of this resolution, it will not be because of the resolution, but in spite of it.

By that I mean to say that, in my opinion, the communists will not attack in the Formosa area or elsewhere unless they believe themselves strong enough to conquer, or unless they believe us weak enough to submit.

I have advocated publicly a strong Defense Establishment because I believe it to be our best means of assuring continued peace. Appeasement promotes aggression and weakness invites attack.

As I have advocated strength in our military preparedness, I advocate firmness in our relations with aggressor nations.

Our earnest prayer is for peace. If war should come, it would not be the result of any aggressive act on the part of the United States. But war might come as the result of any display of weakness, of disunity or of hesitation.

I shall cast my vote on the side of firmness, for unity, and for decision.