1-28-1955

Address by Senator Strom Thurmond in the United States Senate, Friday, 28 January 1955 at 2 PM

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
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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
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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.