STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST, RECORDED JUNE 5, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

My study of our foreign aid program reaffirms my long-standing conviction that it is a program in which we have made many blunders. There have been mistakes in planning, and mistakes in the execution of the plans.

When bad plans are badly executed, it adds up to a bungled program.

Of all the errors that have been made in the foreign aid program, the worst is that of offering economic assistance to countries that are members of the Communist empire. I see no justification whatever for a program to combat Communism by extending aid to Communism.

In speaking to the Senate this week on this point, I listed six reasons why aid to Communist states is dangerous to the security of the United States.

First, it is a mistake to believe that this aid goes to the people of enslaved nations and encourages them to break away from their Communist rulers. Such aid programs are administered with the collaboration of the Communist governments, and these governments make sure that the aid is used in such a way as to strengthen their regimes.

Second, it is a mistake to believe that Communist satellites are free to break away from the Communist empire. The ruthless action of the Soviet Union in Hungary is an example of the treatment
that is dealt to a country which tries to break away.

Third, if we attempt to bolster the economies of Communist satellite states by supplying commodities they lack, we run the grave risk that some of these supplies will be moved, in undercover fashion, to alleviate critical shortages in the Soviet Union or Communist China.

Fourth, in propping up the economies of Communist satellites, we are assuming a burden which would normally fall on the Soviet Union or another member of the Communist empire.

Fifth, our strategy of making the greatest effort in foreign aid in the countries where the threat of Communism is the greatest makes it appear to the rest of the world that the United States offers a premium to those countries which have the most Communists. The policy invites the development of Communist movements in countries that do not have such troublemakers now.

Finally, aid to Communist countries builds up the strength of countries which might well be fighting against us in the event of war.

I believe that there should be an immediate reduction in the size of the foreign aid program, along with a thorough review of its objectives and administration.

America should continue to help faithful and loyal allies with a program of reasonable military assistance in order to keep American boys at home and strengthen the free world. As to economic aid, I believe that if we are going to give such assistance, it should be on a loan basis so that the recipients will know
and feel their obligation and so that we can stand some chance of recovering some of these funds.

If given the chance, private investment could replace foreign aid in many nations. I believe that the greatest hindrance to foreign investment is foreign aid. Private capital does not go to a country whose economy is choked with sterile capital that yields no profit.

I am alarmed at this program. By the end of this fiscal year, we will have poured approximately $70 billion, or one fourth of our national debt, into this and other "give-away" programs.

I wish to thank this station for granting me this time each week, and thank you for listening.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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