

Congressional Action on Military and Economic Aid to South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia

AUTHORIZATION

House

The House approved \$1.3 billion for military support for South Vietnam and Laos in the military procurement bill (H.R.9286) on July 31. The Administration had revised its earlier \$2.1 billion request down to \$1.6 billion. By voice vote the House rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Leggett (Cal.) to reduce the sum to \$500 million.

The House (July 26) also authorized the Administration-requested \$632 million to be spent for "postwar reconstruction" in Indochina through the foreign aid authorization bill (H.R.9360), after rejecting the Bingham amendment to cut Indochina aid by 1/3, the Harrington amendment to prohibit aid to South Vietnam's police and prison system, and the Abzug amendment to end military aid to Cambodia.

Senate

The Senate in acting on the military procurement bill (H.R.9286) authorized \$952 million for military aid to South Vietnam and Laos (Oct. 1). Sen. Hughes (Iowa) offered an amendment, similar to the Leggett amendment in the House, to reduce that figure to \$500 million; it was rejected by a vote of 49 to 43.

The Senate also authorized \$376 million for Indochina "postwar reconstruction" through the economic foreign aid bill (S.2335). Two important amendments were offered by Sen. Abourezk (S.D.). The first would have stopped U.S. funding for any police and prison systems in any foreign country; it failed 51 to 43 (Oct. 1). Second would have stopped all U.S. aid to any country holding political prisoners; it was rejected 67 to 23 (Oct. 1).

S.1443, the foreign military aid bill, authorized expenditures for piece-for-piece replacement of arms in South Vietnam and Laos. It sets no dollar limit for the aid.

Conference

The Armed Services Committees conferees set the final figure for military aid to South Vietnam and Laos at \$1.1 billion in the military procurement authorization bill.

House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations conferees are trying to agree on the bills approved by each house. Conferees should be urged to accept these important provisions in the Senate's foreign economic aid bill (S. 2335):

- * Agree to the \$376 million limit on funds for Thieu set by the Senate and not the \$632 million limit set by the House.
- * Agree to Senate provision in both Senate-passed bills that "No part of any appropriation made available to carry out this or any other provision of law shall be used to conduct any police training or related program for any foreign country."
- * Agree to Senate provision (Sec. 22) stating the sense of Congress that the U.S. should not furnish economic or military assistance to any country unless that country complies with the Jan. 27 Peace Agreement (a provision initiated by Sen. Pell--R.I.).
- * Agree to the Senate provision stating "sense of Congress that the president should deny any economic or military aid to the government of any foreign country which imprisons its citizens for political purposes" (a watered down version of the Senate-considered Abourezk amendment).

ACTION SUGGESTIONS

Urge the Senate and House conferees to accept the foregoing provisions.
Conferees on the aid bills are:

Senators

~~J. W. Fulbright~~--Ark.
~~Frank Church~~--Idaho
~~Hubert H. Humphrey~~--Minn.
~~George D. Aiken~~--Vt.
~~Clifford P. Case~~--N.J.

Representatives

~~Thomas E. Morgan~~--Pa. ~~Dante B. Fascell~~--Fla.
~~Clement J. Zablocki~~--Wis. ~~William S. Mailliard~~--Cal.
~~Wayne L. Hays~~--Ohio ~~Wm. S. Broomfield~~--Mich.
~~Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen~~--N.J.

APPROPRIATIONS

The House and Senate have almost completed the authorization process. The next step is for funds to be appropriated for programs which have been authorized. Congress can appropriate less money for a program than authorized, but not more.

At this time (Oct. 18), the subcommittees of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have completed hearings and are preparing to mark up (=agree to) bills to be reported to the full Appropriations Committees. After action in the Appropriations Committees, the bills will be reported to the House and Senate floors for action.

Military aid for South Vietnam and Laos will be considered in the Defense Appropriations Subcommittees of the House and Senate.

Economic aid for South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and military aid for Cambodia will be considered in the Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the House and Senate.

On issues involving Indochina, FCNL is urging -

House and Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittees

1. \$107 million be appropriated for strictly humanitarian assistance. This is the full amount requested by the Agency for International Development (AID). Specific appropriations for this purpose will assure funds for humanitarian programs will not be short-changed by Thieu or AID officials if over-all Indochina aid funds are cut.
2. \$269 million be appropriated for all other Indochina reconstruction. This is the difference between the Senate-authorized figure of \$376 million and the \$107 million requested for humanitarian relief.
3. That no funds be given for South Vietnam's police and prison systems. FCNL is urging language similar to this: "No funds herein or heretofore appropriated by Congress and none of the local currencies generated herein or heretofore appropriated by Congress shall be used to provide training or financial or material support for the police forces or prison systems within South Vietnam."
4. That no funds be appropriated to any country violating the Jan. 27 peace agreement as provided in Sec. 22 of the Senate-passed authorization bill.

House and Senate Defense Subcommittees

1. That the \$1.0 billion authorized for military aid to South Vietnam and Laos be reduced to \$500 million as proposed by Senator Hughes and Rep. Leggett. See statement by Rep. Bella Abzug in Congressional Record of Oct. 3 (p. E-6260) for supporting documentation.

Urge members of these key Appropriations Subcommittees to support the foregoing proposals:

HOUSE

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
(Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill)

Otto E. Passman--La.
John J. Rooney--N.Y.
Clarence D. Long--Md.
Edward R. Roybal--Calif.
Tom Bevill--Ala.
J. Edward Roush--Ind.
Sidney R. Yates--Ill.
Garner E. Shriver--Kans.
Silvio O. Conte--Mass.
Clarence E. Miller--Ohio
Lawrence Coughlin--Pa.

Subcommittee on Defense
(Military Procurement
Appropriations Bill)
George H. Mahon--Texas
Robert L. F. Sikes--Fla.
Daniel J. Flood--Pa.
Joseph P. Addabbo--N.Y.
John J. McFall--Calif.
John J. Flynt--Ga.
Robert N. Giaimo--Conn.
Jamie L. Whitten--Miss.
William E. Minshall--Ohio
John J. Rhodes--Ariz.
Glenn R. Davis--Wis.
Louis C. Wyman--N.H.

SENATE

Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
(Foreign Economic Aid Bill and
Foreign Military Aid Bill)

Daniel K. Inouye--Hawaii
William Proxmire--Wis.
Gale W. McGee--Wyo.
John L. McClellan--Ark.
Lawton Chiles--Fla.
Edward W. Brooke--Mass.
Mark O. Hatfield--Ore.
Charles McC. Mathias--Md.

Subcommittee on Defense
(Military Procurement
Appropriations Bill)

John L. McClellan--Ark.
John C. Stennis--Miss.
John O. Pastore--R.I.
Warren G. Magnuson--Wash.
Mike Mansfield--Mont.
Alan Bible--Nev.
Gale W. McGee--Wyo.
Milton R. Young--N.Dak.
Roman L. Hruska--Neb.
Norris Cotton--N.H.
Clifford P. Case--N.J.
Hiram L. Fong--Hawaii
Edward W. Brooke--Mass.

Ex officio members:

Stuart Symington--Mo.
Henry M. Jackson--Wash.
Strom Thurmond--S.C.

See FCNL February 1973 Newsletter or other source for full list of appropriations committee members.