

101ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 16

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 1989

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to expedite the release and emigration of "reeducation" camp detainees.

Whereas fourteen years have passed since the end of the Vietnam conflict;

Whereas thousands of opponents of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, including officials of, and others associated with, the former Republic of Vietnam, were detained without trial in "reeducation" camps or prisons beginning in 1975;

Whereas a series of large-scale amnesties took place in the late 1980's resulting in the release of many detainees;

Whereas despite these welcome releases, many Vietnamese remain in long-term detention because of their suspected opposition to the Government of Vietnam, and many family members of detainees do not know their status;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has continued in recent years to imprison individuals because of their political and religious expression or association or related nonviolent activity;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has stated publicly that the remaining "reeducation" camp or prison detainees would be released and that former detainees would be allowed to emigrate;

Whereas the United States has repeatedly stated that the resettlement of "reeducation" camp or prison detainees is one of its highest priorities in its dealing with Vietnam on humanitarian issues and has made it clear to the Government of Vietnam that it is willing to allow former and current detainees to enter the United States;

Whereas at negotiations held in Hanoi in July 1988, the United States and Vietnam agreed in principle on the resettlement of those released from "reeducation" camps or prisons and Vietnam reaffirmed that released detainees and their families could emigrate from Vietnam;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam subsequently suspended negotiations on the issue of the resettlement of detainees and their families; and

Whereas the willingness of the Government of Vietnam to satisfactorily resolve this humanitarian issue will have an important bearing on the relationship between Vietnam and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress calls on the Government of
3 Vietnam—

4 (1) to make public the names of all individuals
5 who continue to be held in "reeducation" camps or
6 prisons in connection with suspected opposition to the
7 Government of Vietnam;

8 (2) to release immediately all remaining long-term
9 "reeducation" camp or prison detainees, as well as all
10 individuals imprisoned in Vietnam in recent years be-
11 cause of their political or religious expression or related
12 nonviolent activities; and

13 (3) to resume negotiations, without preconditions,
14 with the United States concerning the emigration from
15 Vietnam of current and former detainees and their fam-
16 ilies, in accord with the commitment of the Govern-
17 ment of Vietnam to allow their emigration.

Passed the Senate June 8 (legislative day, January 3),
1989.

Attest:

WALTER J. STEWART,

Secretary.