

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has demonstrated its hostility to those leaving Vietnam illegally and, in particular, to those refusing to return to Vietnam voluntarily: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*  
That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) ASEAN first asylum countries should reaffirm the practice of providing adequate refuge for all Vietnamese asylum-seekers, while carrying out the screening of such individuals;

(2) early access should be given to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide humane care and protection to such asylum-seekers;

(3) no repatriation of Vietnamese asylum-seekers should occur until a strong and effective internationally approved mechanism is in place to guarantee that such asylum-seekers will be returned in conditions of safety and dignity and will not be subjected to persecution in any form;

(4) given Vietnamese attitudes toward illegal departure, forced repatriation of refugees to Vietnam should not be considered a viable option;

(5) continuing efforts should be made to improve the screening program of Lao asylum-seekers in Thailand;

(6) the United States should remain committed to a generous and humane Southeast Asian refugee resettlement policy; and

(7) the United States should urge its Western allies to implement or continue generous and humane Southeast Asia refugee resettlement policies.

(b) For purposes of this resolution—

(1) the term "ASEAN" means the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and

(2) the term "ASEAN first asylum countries" includes any country which is a member of the ASEAN group of countries and which is the first to receive an individual seeking asylum.

Agreed to June 7, 1989.

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## VIETNAM—RELEASE AND EMIGRATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

June 13, 1989

[S. Con. Res. 16]

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

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

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

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

(3) to resume negotiations, without preconditions, with the United States concerning the emigration from Vietnam of current and former detainees and their families, in accord with the commitment of the Government of Vietnam to allow their emigration.

Agreed to June 13, 1989.

June 16, 1989  
[H. Con. Res. 150]

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COLLECTION OF TRIBUTE STATEMENTS TO  
REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDE DENSON PEPPER—  
HOUSE PRINT

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*  
That there shall be printed as a House document a collection of statements made in tribute to the late Representative Claude Denson Pepper, together with appropriate illustrations and other materials relating to such statements. In addition to the usual