

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1965

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Carl
Dear Congressman:

The President wishes to express his gratitude for your generosity in placing your comments on our policy in Vietnam in the Congressional Record of June 29, 1965.

He deeply appreciates your continued support.

Sincerely,

Lawrence
Lawrence F. O'Brien
Special Assistant to
the President

Honorable Carl Albert
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

trators, the National Safe Boating Association, the National Safety Council, the Outboard Boating Club of America, the U.S. Power Squadrons, the Yacht Safety Bureau, and the Young Men's Christian Association. To all of these organizations safety in pleasure boating is as important as it is to the individual and his family.

To all those national and local committees actively participating in National Safe Boating Week, I extend my congratulations. I urge all others interested in boating safety to join in making this an even more effective National Safe Boating Week than the successful ones in the past.

OUR POLICY IN VIETNAM

(Mr. ALBERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 5 minutes and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, the use of terror against innocent persons is condemned by this country and by all civilized people. Although there is no proof that Sergeant Bennett was executed as claimed—he may well have been dead for months—the announcement of his having been executed in violation of human ethics is a blatant attempt to terrorize the American people. The bombing of a restaurant in Saigon is likewise an indication of the extent to which North Vietnam is going in order to impose its undesired rule in South Vietnam. As Secretary Rusk suggested last week, this is going to be a long monsoon season and there will be many casualties. We must be prepared for them, including assaults upon the innocent who are the stated targets of the Vietcong.

The Vietcong is strengthened by the direction and material support it receives from the Communist regime in Hanoi which now has infiltrated at least 40,000 men into the Republic of Vietnam. Recent intelligence reports confirm the presence of a minimum of one regular battalion of the North Vietnamese Army and there is now possibly a full division of North Vietnamese regulars in South Vietnam. This stepped-up activity has created an imbalance between the South Vietnamese Army and the Vietcong, with the result that the South Vietnamese people could not be provided sufficient security against Vietcong terror.

But these tactics will not cause us to weaken our resistance to the takeover of South Vietnam. Nor will they incite us to reprisals for acts of terror. We shall stand firm. There is no doubt that our air forces will continue to apply pressures and perhaps increased pressures, against North Vietnam against legitimate military targets. The choice of targets, forces the question of a naval quarantine, are military judgments to which our best experts are applying themselves. We might be justified in imposing a naval blockade or in extending our air strikes. But if we do undertake these steps, our decision will rest upon sound, rational military and poli-

tical judgments. We will not act in anger, or wantonly retaliate in the Communist manner against innocent civilian population centers. And we will act within the framework of the President's repeated assertion that we seek no wider war. The guidelines laid down by the President must be taken into account in deciding all questions of tactics and particularly whether to internationalize the effect of our naval operations by imposing any kind of blockade.

The United States and other allies have augmented the free world's strength in South Vietnam by furnishing combat troops who undertake carefully selected operations in certain zones so that the South Vietnamese Army is thereby better able to provide security for the populace. Our troops are engaging the Vietcong only in certain delineated situations such as base security by static defense or patrolling, or where Vietnamese forces are inadequate to accomplish a vital task. This is not a commitment to a massive land war, but rather the judicious employment of our forces in areas where our men and their firepower are most effective. Our objective is to deter aggression from Hanoi in two ways; first, by convincing her that the game is not worth the candle, and secondly, by convincing her that even increased infiltration and terror cannot snatch South Vietnam from its place in the ranks of independent nations.

The Government of South Vietnam continues to take casualties in order to stave off the vicious drive being mounted against their independence. Our troops are there to assist them and they are needed. Neither air nor naval power, necessary though they are, can totally replace these men. The fighting is going to be hard and we cannot hope for instant cessation of terrorist activities. The difficulty of the undertaking is outweighed by the profound significance of the issue. Our President has said that we stand ready to talk without any prior conditions—yet we will not yield and we will prevail.

RHODE ISLAND LITHUANIAN RESOLUTION

(Mr. FOGARTY (at the request of Mr. HICKS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. FOGARTY. Mr. Speaker, just a short time ago it was my privilege to join in the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the occupation of the Baltic States. At that time a number of us expressed our sentiment here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. It was an attempt, Mr. Speaker, to bring to the attention of the world the sad plight of the freedom-loving Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians.

With this same purpose in mind I include in my remarks a resolution of the Providence chapter of the American Lithuanian Council of Providence, R.I., which was sent to me by the Rev. Vaclovas Martinkus, chairman, and John A. Stoskus, secretary of that organization.

PROVIDENCE CHAPTER,
AMERICAN LITHUANIAN COUNCIL,
Providence, R.I.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FOGARTY: Rhode Islanders of Lithuanian extraction gathered on June 20, 1965, at Saint Casimir's Auditorium in the city of Providence in solemn commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the occupation of Lithuania by Soviet Russia, unanimously passed the following resolution:

Whereas Soviet communism has demonstrated by principle and by act that its whole purpose is the domination of the world by the proletariat through the ruthless destruction and annihilation of all existing forms of government; and

Whereas the Soviet Union took Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia by force of arms; and

Whereas Soviet communism is bent on only one purpose, its victory and experience has shown that the victory of Soviet communism means very concretely the enslavement of all other peoples; and

Whereas Soviet Russia has deported nearly 400,000 Lithuanian citizens to concentration camps in Siberia and other areas of Soviet Russia for slave labor and death; and

Whereas Lithuanians, Estonians, and Latvians sincerely desire, fight and die for their national independence and liberation; and

Whereas Lithuania has been for over 20 years unjustly subjugated by Soviet Russia which has to this date steadfastly refused to permit the people of Lithuania to hold free elections: Now be it

Resolved, That we thank the President of the United States, Members of the U.S. Senate, and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives for their many kindnesses shown the Lithuanian cause, which caused the free world to recall and keep in mind the atrocities committed upon Lithuania and other Baltic nations by Soviet Russia; and be it

Resolved, That our Government take immediate and concrete steps to compel Soviet Russia to leave the territory of Lithuania, to return free elections in Lithuania under the supervision of the United Nations; and be it further

Resolved, That the representatives of free Lithuania be given a full-fledged seat in the United Nations which would permit her to state her righteous case to the world.

REV. VACLOVAS MARTINKUS,
Chairman.

JOHN A. STOSKUS,
Secretary.

(Mr. BINGHAM (at the request of Mr. HICKS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. BINGHAM'S remarks will appear hereafter in the Appendix.]

A WORTHWHILE HOUSING PROGRAM

(Mr. OTTINGER (at the request of Mr. HICKS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. OTTINGER. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us today—the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965—is not perfect. No legislation is. But this is a good bill, containing many and it certainly deserves our support.

As a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency, I know how much time and bipartisan effort went into making this bill as good as it is. I