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THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 355

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: MILITARY DRAFT

WHEREAS, nine years have elapsed since the United States initiated the effort to meet its military power requirements through the concept of an All Volunteer Force (AVF) with a standby Selective Service System theoretically capable of quick reactivation to provide draftees in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, several underlying assumptions on which those manpower policies were based have changed since the AVF began in 1973; i.e., as stated by the Senate Armed Services Committee; "Soviet military capabilities have increased substantially in terms of quantity and quality of manpower; quantity and sophistication of material; command, control, communications and intelligence capability;" and

WHEREAS, all our armed forces are suffering from the impact of having to compete for a dwindling manpower pool, which by 1992 will require the enlistment each year of one in four of American males who become eligible for military service; and

WHEREAS, all Services are, at the moment, reaching their active duty manpower quotas at undue expense in terms of the dollars used for recruiting and in terms of the societal imbalances of the recruited force; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with keeping people in uniform have continued to rise in spite of the increased monetary support for our people, we have wound up with a forces that is substantially under-armed, trained and under-qualified; and

WHEREAS, we Americans find it difficult to believe that the problem can be resolved simply by throwing more money at it; and

WHEREAS, frequent overseas deployments and non-competitive compensation have brought pressures on career personnel that continue to drive them from the ranks in substantial numbers seriously depleting the level of professionalism through all the Services; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for us to acknowledge the failure of the All-Volunteer Force and we must find other ways to build capable,

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credible military forces that are essential to our national policy and interests; and

WHEREAS, the only obvious system is a form of Selective Service that brings service to the country back into proper national perspective as history shows no successful substitute for the citizen's direct involvement in his destiny; and

WHEREAS, any operative Selective Service plan has to be completely fair for all, ever since Vietnam, middle Americans have not been in uniform of their country; and

WHEREAS, the Military Selective Service Act, as amended, provides a fair and equitable selection system under which 95% of our young physically qualified men have an equal opportunity to be considered for military service through a lottery system with stringent controls over deferments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we recognize the inadequacy of the All-Volunteer Force and support a return to a military draft program as the primary source of personnel to meet the manpower requirements of our armed forces, including the Reserve components thereof.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 362

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR A STRONG U.S. NAVAL RESERVE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Naval Reserve has been an essential arm of the United States Navy for many years; and

WHEREAS, in recent directives of various administrations, the U.S. Naval Reserve has been reduced to a small pool of officers and enlisted personnel used to fill gaps in the U.S. Navy's regular forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the U.S. Naval Reserve--air and surface elements--be expanded in direct proportion to increases in the operating forces; that the U.S. Naval Reserve's current mission statement be reviewed and upgraded to reflect new wartime demands and new global responsibilities; that emphasis be placed on integral unit activation and deployment (rather than piecemeal use to fill attrition deficits in regular forces); that wholly new mission areas be explored, especially where rapid employment of a "surge" capability is essential.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 446

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: CRIME

WHEREAS, the increasing crime rate poses a threat to free people and to free society; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement representatives are sometimes frustrated in their efforts to combat the increasing crime rate by attempted perversions of the judicial system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we encourage the Congress and legislatures of the United States to stiffen the penalties of convicted offenders be punished; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we further urge our law-making bodies to expand the services to the "innocent victims" of crime to assist these persons monetarily and spiritually in recovering from their unwarranted and undesirable experience.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 472

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: MODERNIZE THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE FLEET

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been aware of the necessity to rebuild and modernize the United States privately-owned and operated merchant fleet; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is the most active trading nation in the world with nearly twice the volume of Japan's, more than three times the Soviets, and supports 20 million jobs, yet its merchant marine is in an advanced stage of decline; and

WHEREAS, American vessels now carry less than 4% of our foreign goods, while Japan carries 40% of its trade, Germany and France each 30% and Russia nearly 60%; and

WHEREAS, the deplorable state of our merchant fleet has been developing for decades by taxing, regulating, subsidizing and pricing ourselves out of the ocean transportation industry, and have arrived at the point where we are totally dependent on foreign ships for many of our strategic materials; and

WHEREAS, it is essential we control a strong fleet of cargo vessels for our commercial lifeline, as well as in support of U.S. military forces to meet the constant Russian military buildup; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan supports far-reaching regulatory reform and increased military might, which should reflect in meaningful support for the U.S. Merchant Marine, the fourth arm of our national defense; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the U.S. Government to work with maritime labor and management to rebuild the U.S. shipping fleet to a position second to none in the world under the guidance of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the Members of Congress to make it a priority to enact the necessary legislation that will make it possible for the American merchant fleet to compete with foreign vessels.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 487

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR A STRONG NATIONAL GUARD

WHEREAS, in all our wars, the American people have found it necessary to rely extensively on citizen-soldiers; and

WHEREAS, we have never been able to maintain a sufficient military establishment in time of peace to meet the total national defense needs; and

WHEREAS, the employers and citizens of our communities have reason to trust and support a civilian-soldier defense program; and

WHEREAS, an incentive compensation plan for National Guard members should attract superior men and women to assure adequate force levels; and

WHEREAS, accreditation of National Guard training courses by state higher education institutions should assist recruitment efforts; and

WHEREAS, a modern fully equipped National Guard is able to serve the nation and States in time of emergency, national disaster, or civil disorder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we call upon Congress and the various State legislatures to provide for the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard the necessary legislation and resources to insure effective personnel strength and equipment levels compatible with the regular Army and Air Force, thereby guaranteeing fulfillment of their obligations to the United States of America.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 491

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHEREAS, various reports by our elected officials indicate our deficiencies in our national military posture; and

WHEREAS, Congress has become aware of this problem, and has increased the 1982-83 defense budget in an effort to better our military stature before other nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we commend those Members of Congress who are attempting to improve our military preparedness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge Congress to continue their efforts to bring our national military strength, and hardware of men and materials to the position that our nation be number one, and that our people will not have to live in fear of any sudden attack without the ability to retaliate.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 516

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: EDUCATION INCENTIVES FOR ACTIVE AND RESERVE FORCES

WHEREAS, Congress has terminated the education program under Chapter 34, Title 38, U.S. Code, for those persons enlisting in the Armed Forces of the United States on or after January 1, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Congress replaced this educational assistance program with a less generous experimental contributory program under Chapter 32, Title 38, which is known as the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educations Assistance Program, or "VEAP," wherein the Federal Government matches on a two-to-one basis the deposits by the individual military member to VEAP; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Defense is authorized under this program to contribute additional unspecified amounts to an individual's VEAP account above that level as a recruiting or retention incentive; and

WHEREAS, the armed services have testified that the VEAP program is not effective as a recruiting and retention tool; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education now provides without service requirement, direct and guaranteed student loans with minimal interest rates which do not require repayment to commence 9-12 months after graduation with complete repayment within 10 years; and

WHEREAS, all military services are currently experiencing great success in recruiting and retaining military personnel but it is apparent that this problem will worsen in the 1980s as the number of 18-year personnel decline 1.7 million in the latter part of the decade, thus requiring the services to recruit 50% of all military age males who are physically and mentally qualified and who are not enrolled in college in order to meet the manpower needs of the services; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that educational incentives play an important part in the recruitment and retention of personnel, and any attempt to restrict or delete such benefits as a cost-saving measure would adversely affect the military services ability to meet their accession and retention goals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that the declining numbers of 18-year old personnel will likely force resumption of the draft, and

(Res. 516- continued)

will encourage Congress to authorize an education incentive program as a readjustment benefit comparable to those that were provided under Public Law 89-358, the so-called "Cold War Veterans Readjustment Act;" now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge Congress to enact legislation which would authorize and fund an education incentive program to support retention and recruiting for Active and Reserve Forces; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion recommends to Congress that any such educational incentive program be funded as a Department of Defense function but be administered by the Veterans Administration since the VA currently has staff and expertise to administer such a program.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 517

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO EROSION OF BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF U.S.
ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, military professionals look for and have every right to expect dignity, job satisfaction, and the appreciation of the American people for their sacrifices that are part of military life; and

WHEREAS, the quickest way for the nation to lose the best and the brightest in its Armed Forces is by degrading, eroding and ignoring the value and purpose of military service and of national security; and

WHEREAS, many of the men and women serving their country in uniform perceive a continued erosion of promised benefits because of constant attacks on the military commissaries, compensation, retirement pay, etc., by influential and decisive elements of society; and

WHEREAS, removal of real or perceived benefits, regardless of reason, can and frequently does produce Service reaction out of proportion to the savings involved; and

WHEREAS, such presumed savings then become illusory for two reasons: trained personnel who might have been motivated toward a career leave the Service at the first opportunity; and those who have chosen a military career feel that the government has broken faith with them; and

WHEREAS, the investment in recruiting, training and experience of all those lost may well exceed any savings originally contemplated; and

WHEREAS, the adverse impact on the morale of those remaining should be obvious and a cause for deep concern; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we see a compelling cause for reaffirming our belief in our compassion for, and our unswerving commitment to, the "people" of our Armed Services, and we strongly urge the Administration, Congress and the American public to oppose any action that would increase the perception of erosion of benefits; and, be it further

(Res. 517- continued)

RESOLVED, that The American Legion believes that a "Bill of Rights" should be enacted specifying the benefits that accrue from military service, which provides that such benefits would only be changed or eliminated prospectively and changes would not apply to those already in service; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that we urge the Congress to enact "Bill of Rights" legislation.

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64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 518

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The American Legion by National Convention mandate has always supported the Selective Service System that provides the necessary pool of manpower which would be required on short notice in the event of war; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan following the advice of Defense Secretary Weinberger, Secretary of State Haig and The American Legion, has decided to continue the compulsory draft registration for young men when they reach their 18th birthday; and

WHEREAS, the decision was made to extend the program because its cancellation would send the wrong signal to the Soviet Union and our European allies as to our ability to mobilize in case of a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion feels this proposal would give a sense of duty to country that the youth of this nation must come to appreciate, a duty which carries with it the possibility of military service in defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, there are a large number of 18-year old citizens who have failed to register and have not fulfilled their obligation to their country as have the majority of their peers who have registered of the same age group; and

WHEREAS, by failing to register this type of attitude could undermine the future existence of America and our way of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the President and Congress to disallow any government supported educational or business loans, grants, scholarships or annuities to those individuals who fail to register with the Selective Service when they reach age 18.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 520

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR PEACEFUL AND MILITARY USE OF SPACE

WHEREAS, The American Legion has urged the Administration and Congress to conduct a comprehensive review of the defense program of the United States and develop and implement a program with significant real annual budget increases to assure the security of the nation and the support of its foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, the President has announced a comprehensive plan for the modernization of U.S. strategic weapons, making clear what the U.S. will do to strengthen its strategic posture if fair and equitable agreements for arms reduction cannot be reached; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive plan for modernization of strategic weapons includes decisions to build the B-1 bomber and M-X missiles, as temporary measures, while also proceeding with development of an advanced technology manned bomber; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive plan includes a commitment to upgrade our electronic command and control systems and to accelerate research and development aimed at devising an effective anti-ballistic missile defense system; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Soviet Union may be prepared to deploy laser beam type weapons in space in this decade and to have a large, permanent, manned orbital space complex capable of attacking land, sea and air targets operational in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently has a technological lead over the Soviet Union, especially in space as demonstrated by the Space Shuttle, and should be making much greater use of the opportunities open to us for peaceful scientific, industrial and commercial applications of space as well as harnessing its military potential; and

WHEREAS, it may not be possible for the U.S. to continue to budget unlimited amounts in an effort to match the enemy's capabilities in all types of forces and weapons, and because there is a growing popular demand for a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the President and Congress to adopt a defense policy which would emphasize the ability to

(Res. 520-continued)

limit damage to our land-based missiles and other military targets to insure the credibility of our deterrent weapons and the survival of our nation; and, based upon the critical need to maintain our technological lead in space, to accelerate development of both peaceful and military use of space, including consideration of launching a space-based ballistic missile defense system.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 530

COMMITTEE: National Security

SUBJECT: MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

WHEREAS, there is more to national defense than having well-trained personnel equipped with superior weapon systems; and

WHEREAS, our industrial base is an integral part of our national security posture and a strong industrial base is an important deterrent to conflict; and

WHEREAS, without a responsive industrial base, both our weapon systems capabilities and our flexibility to respond to national security interests and sustain a desired level of activity are severely impaired; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. defense industry is hard-pressed to meet even the current relatively modest, procurement goals of the military services; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade thousands of subcontractors have deserted the defense business while major defense producers have failed to invest adequately in new technology; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that many problems exist in the ability of our industries to react swiftly to the need for increased defense production, thus highlighting a weakness in our combat sustainability; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the Congress to pass legislation to encourage and assist in the modernization of the nation's industrial base to strengthen our defense capabilities and insure national security.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 2

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: WESTERN HEMISPHERE

WHEREAS, since 1962 the Soviet Union has multiplied the strength of its military might to a greater extent than Nazi Germany did in preparation for geographic expansion or war; and

WHEREAS, the Western Hemisphere is an example area that shows the world how the Free World's influence fares with communism; and

WHEREAS, the Free World can, and should, expand its influence over communism by strengthening its influence in the Western Hemisphere and encouraging economic growth within the Hemisphere by means of implementing the Caribbean Basin Initiative and other methods of exporting Free World products and ideas; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet brand of communism is being preached by Cuban teachers and agents throughout the Western Hemisphere, blatant examples being the "loan" of over 500 Cuban teachers to the recently toppled government of Nicaragua, Cuban, and Soviet influence in the insurgency in El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, economic instability makes a fertile environment for leftist movement to encourage anarchy; and

WHEREAS, lessening United States' military might in the Western Hemisphere assists leftist movements in the area; and this lessening is characterized by: decreasing the four-star rank of U.S. Southern Command to a three-star position, the 1980 and 1981 Defense Appropriation Bills' cutting of U.S. Southern Air Division's strength, and the Panama Canal Treaties which planned the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from their strategically sound location; and

WHEREAS, further decreases in U.S. military presence in the Western Hemisphere will lay open the path for an explosion of Soviet military, political, and economic influence into what heretofore was a Free World Hemisphere; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that The American Legion urges and charges the President, Congress, and the Department of Defense of

(Res. 2- continued)

the United States to increase the United States' influence in the Western Hemisphere by recognizing that:

(1) By economic assistance via the Caribbean Basin Initiative and U.S. Military Training Assistance being given to anti-Communist countries in the Western Hemisphere, various Western Hemisphere countries may start to expand their own Free World influence to other parts of the world.

(2) The prestige of our allies in the Western Hemisphere merits restoring the four-star rank of U.S. Southern Command's Commander-in-Chief and restoring the two-star ranks of its Army and Navy Component Commanders.

(3) The military capability of the Air Force Component -- U.S. Southern Air Division -- should be increased to allow a U.S. military presence to be flown to, and shown in, various countries in the Western Hemisphere that would appreciate Free World examples of professionalism.

(4) The Free World, led by the United States, can and should broadcast this truth: famine follows communism.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 11

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN BASIN

WHEREAS, Soviet-Cuban aggression continues to increase in the Caribbean Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union is supporting a massive buildup of communist military forces and bases in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the Caribbean Basin nations continue to suffer underdevelopment and economic chaos; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States now has properly recognized vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin, and communist threat, and the area's serious economic plight; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States has started to enunciate a more comprehensive policy based on the Caribbean Basin Initiative and increased military assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 1982, that the Administration be urged to enlarge the Caribbean Basin Initiative into a true "Marshall-type-Plan" for the area, including, greatly increased funding over a number of years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to develop adequate military and intelligence capabilities to accomplish its objectives in the Caribbean Basin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and Caribbean Basin nations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion should inform (through The American Legion Magazine, other Legion publications, and other means of communications) the American public and Congress of vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin and the need to pursue them vigorously.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 26

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: CUBA

WHEREAS, many newspapers, TV stations, and other media, as well as personalities in government, have periodically sent up "trial balloons" stating that, in their opinion, we should seek to "normalize" relations with Communist Cuba; and

WHEREAS, communist Cuba's dictator, Fidel Castro, has notwithstanding, kept thousands of Cuban citizens imprisoned for daring to oppose his totalitarian regime; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban communist regime has continued the repressive policy of no free elections, systematic spying on all citizens, and coercion of all Cubans into the communist system; i.e., a total denial of human rights as witness 10,000 Cubans who sought freedom at the Peruvian Embassy; and

WHEREAS, communist Cuba has continued unabated in its implacable hatred of the United States of America, and has continued to send out communist agents to other countries in this hemisphere, notably Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, and Guatemala; and continues to train and inspire agents for sabotage and insurrection in various countries; and

WHEREAS, upwards of 40,000 Cuban troops served at the pleasure of their Soviet Communist masters in subduing Angola, and have taken further aggression on the "Horn" of Africa, in Ethiopia, Yemen; and

WHEREAS, communist Cuba has continued in cynical fashion by attempting to subvert the American Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and turn these loyal Americans against mainland America; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has admitted hundreds of thousands of anti-communist refugees from Cuba shores; and

WHEREAS, in clear violation of the so-called "Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement" of 1962 the Soviet Union has furnished (and Cuba has accepted) nuclear-capable MIG-23 offensive aircraft and has admitted a Soviet ground combat brigade; now, therefore be it

(Res. 26- continued)

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we will call upon the President and the Congress to continue the present policy of no trade with that Communist Cuba state for as long as it remains the policy of that Cuban communist regime to retain the many harsh injustices now extant in that unfortunate land and have their armed forces served under the strategic direction of the Soviet Union; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the United States government, under no circumstances, grant concessions affecting complete and undiluted U.S. Control and use of Guantanamo Bay as a Naval Base of supreme strategic, as well as political importance; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the President of the United States continue SR 71 intelligence gathering overflights of Cuba to insure more accurate intelligence gathering as to the manner in which the "Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement" of 1962 is being honored by the Cubans.

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RESOLUTION 27

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF KOREA

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and the defense and stability of Northeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea for eviction, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce; and

WHEREAS, a Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea was signed at Washington, D.C., on October 1, 1953, and entered into force on November 17, 1954; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has never renounced the use of military force as a legitimate means to obtain its goal of bringing the entire Korean Peninsula under communist rule; and, in support of this goal, maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of assuming offensive operations on short notice; the size of these forces have been recently discovered to be far larger than heretofore assumed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has nearby allies, the Soviet Union and Communist China, capable of supporting her from just across the border, while non-communist support for the Republic of Korea would have to be mounted from the United States and come from offshore; and

WHEREAS, the presence of U.S. ground forces in the Republic of Korea serves uniquely as the real deterrent to aggression by North Korea which is inimical to U.S. interests for peace on the peninsula and overall stability in Northeast Asia, particularly in regard to Japan; and

WHEREAS, the United States maintains a major part of a combat-ready division in Korea, with training facilities and areas far superior to any available elsewhere, at a cost less than would be required in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is in the most vital interest of the United States, as the leading nation in the Free World, that the President and the Congress sustain and fulfill the treaties and agreements made by our nation; now, therefore be it

(Res. 27- continued)

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the President and Congress to reaffirm its commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea and U.S. Force strength be increased commensurate with the offensive build-up of North Korean Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any plan to withdraw any U.S. MILITARY FORCES from the Republic of Korea be considered only when a bonafide peace treaty has been agreed to between North and South Korea.

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RESOLUTION 29

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHANISTAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

WHEREAS, ever since the brutal December, 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, fierce Afghan tribesmen, who enjoy a proud fighting tradition, have used make-shift weapons often the old, single-shot Lee-Enfield Rifle- to harass and demoralize the 110,000 invading Soviet troops; and

WHEREAS, units of the former Afghan army have deserted en masse to join their countrymen and fight the Soviet invaders who have used the full panoply of modern weapons against the Afghans, to include "Yellow Rain" poison gas, in an unsuccessful effort to break the tough Afghan freedom fighters; and

WHEREAS, the scores of thousands of Afghan refugees now in neighboring Pakistan are in desperate need of food, shelter and medical aid and the United States should take the lead in providing for this humanitarian aid; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the United States of America and other countries of the Free World give every possible humanitarian aid to the Afghan Freedom Fighters and Afghan refugees in Pakistan. And, that we urge the U.S. Government to initiate action for a peaceful withdrawal of all Soviet armed forces from Afghanistan.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 171

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: POLAND

WHEREAS, Poland, a member of the Warsaw Pact, has effectively suppressed Solidarity, the force working for greater freedom and independence from totalitarian system imposed by the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Polish workers are now denied the right to strike and bargain collectively which is in accord with Leninism and Soviet Communism; and

WHEREAS, numerous factions in Poland, such as the farmers, students, intellectuals and workers still believe in their right to exercise increased control of their own lives, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, to encourage freedom for Poland's citizens, and oppose the Soviet Union's intervention in Poland's internal affairs, or the invasion of Poland by Soviet military forces, or the suppression of Poland's Solidarity movement by Polish-led communist forces.

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AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 172

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

WHEREAS, there is a continuing drift toward neutralism in Western Europe, caused to some extent by disinformation and subversion with the media; and

WHEREAS, NATO will and readiness, continue to be important as a counter to the Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, the military forces of Great Britain and Western Europe should be well equipped, well trained and battle ready to increase NATO's value as a deterrent to Soviet aggression; and

WHEREAS, the basis for United States defense is built on a strong NATO, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the United States be urged to continue its interest and support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, encouraging military exercises as needed to maintain battle readiness as a deterrent to Soviet aggression.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 174

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: SOVIET GAS PIPELINE

WHEREAS, a gas pipeline is being planned from North Russia to Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the pipeline is to provide a new source of energy to Western European nations, including, Italy, France, West Germany, The Netherlands and Austria; and

WHEREAS, a number of the Western European nations have extended credit to the government of the Soviet Union for the specific purpose of building such a pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union will derive billions of dollars in hard currency from Western European nations as a result of each sale of gas, and this hard currency will then be available to buy and build armaments which will further threaten the nations which are intended to be the beneficiaries of such a gas pipeline; and

WHEREAS, once such a pipeline is constructed and once gas is flowing to the nations of Western Europe these nations will become dependent on such a huge energy source and vulnerable to all manner of pressures including blackmail; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan has spoken forcefully that he does not believe such a pipeline would be in the best interest of the Western European nations, the United States and the Atlantic Alliance, now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, to urge the United States representatives in NATO and the United States Congress to strongly oppose the construction of such a pipeline; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the United States and Western Europe nations seek on an urgent basis alternative sources of energy so that such a Soviet gas pipeline connection will not become necessary.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 225

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

WHEREAS, the United States enjoys peace, prosperity and freedom as a result of our commitment to a strong defense for both our own country and our allies; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China and Taiwan occupies a strategic location in the Western Pacific essential to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the armed forces of the Republic of China have in the past, reliably served as one of the deterrents to communist military ventures which could lead to war in the Taiwan Straits and ultimately to world war; and

WHEREAS, Section 3(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient self-defense capability"; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China has previously requested to purchase state-of-the-art defensive weapon systems; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has, heretofore, prohibited or failed to authorize sales of needed modern weapons, vital to the security of the Republic of China and the peace, security and stability of the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 1982, the United States and the People's Republic of China issued a communique in which the United States stated "it intends to reduce gradually its sales of arms to Taiwan, leading over a period of time to a final resolution"; and

WHEREAS, this communique enunciates a policy which, in effect, inhibits the Republic of China from maintaining a sufficient self-defense capability, placing in jeopardy the cherished rights of freedom and self-defense of our good friends and allies in the Republic of China; and

(Res. 225- continued)

WHEREAS, this communique violates the Taiwan Relations Act is contrary to US national interests, and long-standing American Legion policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we firmly support the sales to the Republic of China of modern defense articles in quantities, such that the Republic of China armed forces will be able to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability that will contribute to the strategic security posture of the free world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion desires to reassure the Republic of China (Taiwan) that we recognize our security commitment to that nation and that we strongly protest any statement or act that will in any way diminish our support for its cause of world peace and freedom.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 226

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

WHEREAS, the Republic of China has been a realiable ally of the United States of American, having militarily and politically supported our country during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China is the eighth largest trading partner of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China occupies a strategic position in the Western Pacific, with extensive air and naval base systems available to the United States of America on request; and

WHEREAS, the political and economic stability of the Republic of China, the freedom of its 18 million people, and the military security of the United States of America would be significantly enhanced by the establishment of official diplomatic and military relations between the Republic of China and the United States of America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24- 26, 1982, that it strongly supports restoration of diplomatic and military relations between the Republic of China and the United States of America.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 228

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF KOREA

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea are enjoying a centennial relationship as allies; and

WHEREAS, mutual defense treaties between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea call for the military forces of the Republic of Korea to be at their fullest strength; and

WHEREAS, this can only be accomplished by the sale of state-of-the-art military arms and equipment to the Republic of Korea; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24- 26, 1982, that we support the sale of necessary modern "state-of-the-art" defensive military arms and equipment to the Republic of Korea.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 310

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR

WHEREAS, recent elections have been held in El Salvador with several parties seeking seats in the Salvadoran Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the people of El Salvador overwhelmingly demonstrated their rejection of the communist insurgents by the extremely large turnout for the March 28, 1982, constituent assembly election, under very difficult conditions; and

WHEREAS, the communist threat to El Salvador continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the economic situation in El Salvador continues to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, the government of the United States has publicly, clearly and repeatedly "drawn a line" and pledged to defeat communist aggression in El Salvador, thus making U.S. resolve and success absolutely imperative; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion has continuously and consistently opposed worldwide communist expansion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the U.S. Government be urged to provide adequate economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training equipment as necessary to defeat the guerrillas; and, be it further;

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist subversion in El Salvador.

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64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 311

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: SOVIET UNION

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union is reported to have gained military hardware advantages over the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union is vulnerable to political pressures from noncommunist nations, denying consumer needs to the Russian people while spending excessive amounts in an armaments build-up; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has numerous political vulnerabilities, suppression of freedom to speak, to write, to draw cartoons which embarrass the government; restrictions on immigration, restrictions on travel, restrictions on private ownership, restrictions on such basic necessities as food, shelter and clothing; and

WHEREAS, the United States is exceptionally talented in applying political pressures in open societies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24- 26, 1982, that it urges the United States to plan and execute political pressures to give the Russian people greater freedom of opportunity and improved living standards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the United States fully utilize radio broadcasts such as the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe to intensify the pressures against the totalitarian government now in control of the Soviet Union.

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RESOLUTION 317

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

WHEREAS, the United States of America has suffered great loss because of members of our intelligence community being forced to divulge information which is pertinent to the security of our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the amendments of the Freedom of Information Act to provide that such agencies and departments such as the FBI, CIA, Defense and State may withhold sensitive information and data, the release of which would damage the interests of the United States or hamper the operation of those agencies and departments and their employees.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 484

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN BASIN

WHEREAS, Soviet-Cuban aggression continues to increase in the Caribbean Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union is supporting a massive buildup of communist military forces and bases in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States now has properly recognized vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin, and communist threat, and the area's serious economic plight; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States has started to enunciate a more comprehensive policy based on the Caribbean Basin Initiative and increased military assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the Administration be urged to enlarge the Caribbean Basin Initiative into a true "Marshall-type-Plan" for the area, including greatly increased funding over a number of years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to develop adequate military and intelligence capabilities to accomplish its objectives in the Caribbean Basin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion should inform (through The American Legion Magazine, other Legion publications, and other means of communication) the American public and Congress of vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin and the need to pursue them vigorously.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 497

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

WHEREAS, the United States has a lasting interest in use of the seas for transportation, national defense, and extraction of natural or developed resources; and

WHEREAS, within the next decade or two, the deep seabed will very likely become one of the principal sources for mining of manganese, nickel, cobalt, and copper--all of which are vital to our continued prosperity and national security; and

WHEREAS, the recently negotiated Law of the Sea Treaty is favorable to U.S. interests in such areas as delineation of territorial seas, transit rights, establishment of economic zones, environmental controls, and marine scientific research; and

WHEREAS, the deep seabed mining provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty are unacceptable because they make the mineral riches of the deep seabed the common heritage of mankind (creating a precedent for future share-the-wealth schemes), hinder full development of deep seabed mining, give inadequate power to the United States and other advanced nations in decisionmaking, and require mandatory transfer of private technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we support the Administration's vote against approval of the Law of the Sea Treaty and subsequent decision not to sign it; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the Administration and Congress to take effective steps ensuring that the United States can enjoy all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities stemming from all provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty except those relating to deep seabed mining; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that we urge the Administration and Congress to devise unilateral or multilateral arrangements providing for the United States to participate fully in deep seabed mining under conditions of national security and free enterprise, subject only to reasonable environmental controls.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 498

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA

WHEREAS, current negotiations among the Western Contact Group (United States, Canada, France, West Germany, and Britain), concerned African states, the Southwest Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), and the Republic of South Africa will very likely soon reach agreement providing for free elections in Namibia, withdrawal of South African Forces, and independence for Namibia; and

WHEREAS, about 15,000-20,000 Cuban troops in Angola continue to project an unwanted Soviet presence in the region; and

WHEREAS, a peaceful, prosperous, multiracial Namibia free of Soviet domination is of considerable importance to the United States because of Namibia's strategic location and mineral wealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we support an agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to the governments of the United States and Republic of South Africa and provides for free and fair elections, withdrawal of South African forces, independence for Namibia, and withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 499

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has greatly expanded its nuclear capabilities over the past decade and achieved at least rough nuclear strategic equivalence with the United States while the United States has seriously neglected modernization of its nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union continues to deploy SS-20 medium range missiles, which now number at least 315, most of which are targeted on Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, an immediate nuclear freeze would "lock in" the current Soviet lead in heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), which makes U.S. ICBMs vulnerable to a Soviet first strike; would remove the Soviets' incentive to negotiate reductions; would leave NATO Europe subject to the Soviets' serious SS-20 threat; and would prevent necessary modernization of the U.S. nuclear TRIAD and supporting activities to offset the Soviet buildup; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years, recognized the utility of equitable arms control measures and, accordingly, has supported arms control measures which did not place the United States at a military disadvantage and did provide for effective, unalterable guarantees for compliance, including fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we support:

(1) A U.S. nuclear deterrent force at least equivalent to Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.

(2) Deployment of U.S. intermediate range missiles to NATO Europe to offset the Soviet SS-20 threat unless a workable, verifiable "zero option" is agreed upon by the United States and the Soviet Union.

(3) Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the U.S. to equal levels, resulting in mutual

(Res.499 -continued)

deterrence at lower levels of armaments and a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.

(4) A verifiable freeze of the testing and deployment of nuclear forces only after the above conditions have been achieved and as specified in Resolution 7, adopted at the May, 1982 National Executive Committee meeting.

(5) Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures including measures going beyond national technical means to include fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 500

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WHEREAS, the people and the government of South Africa through the ages have proven to be friends and allies of the United States and from their deeds and actions prove that their desire is to continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of South Africa has proven that it has accomplished the fact by giving the homeland tribes of Transkei, Ceeski, Serazia and Bophuthatswana their independence; and

WHEREAS, there is imminent threat by the communist powers against the Republic of South Africa, as typified by the hostile measures of the terrorists from the front line states or nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we go on record as requesting the United States to lift all sanctions and offer all assistance available to help the government of the Republic of South Africa to accomplish their policy of training and self-help to various peoples of their country.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
64th NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 501

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA

WHEREAS, the time has come for the United States Government to recognize the realities of problems facing the Western World, particularly United States national defense interests, if South Africa should be subverted to communist controlled domination due to lack of support from Western World governments; and

WHEREAS, pro-Marxist governments have been recently established in Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique, with the military assistance of Soviet Russia's puppet, Cuba, and brutal raids have been made in the Shaba province of Zaire killing thousands of innocent persons; and

WHEREAS, the United States must recognize that South Africa controls a major percentage of the world's supply of essential minerals, chemicals, coal and gold, with recent reports of large undeveloped oil resources in that area of the world, all of which are vitally important to maintaining the industrial strength of the Western World, particularly the United States; and

WHEREAS, South Africa is strategically located on the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean areas through which the majority of the Western nations' supplies of oil must pass if their industries are to survive; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of South Africa has established a national policy which provides self-determination and independence to the peoples of common heritage, traditions, and cultures; and

WHEREAS, a cooperative economic, industrial and security relationship between the U.S. and South Africa will significantly benefit both countries and contribute to a just and satisfactory resolution of South Africa's internal social problems and be a stabilizing influence in the political and military power struggles in the African and Indian Ocean areas contiguous thereto; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we ask the Administration and Congress to take immediate bipartisan action, with or without United Nations approval, as a matter of extreme urgency in support of U.S. national security, industrial and economic interests, and because

(Res.501 -continued)

of the unsettled conditions in Africa and the Middle East, to (1) terminate all sanctions against South Africa; and (2) establish full diplomatic ties with South Africa, designate South Africa as "most favored nation" in all areas of trade and exchange of economic or military facilities, and to provide tax incentives for U.S. industrial development in South Africa; and (3) enter into mutually acceptable military alliance with South Africa.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 502

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, the United Nations has frequently failed to achieve its basic purposes of maintaining international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, politization of some functional UN activities has drastically reduced the United Nations' effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget (25%) and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some United Nations special programs; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations continues to be effective in some functional areas (such as refugee relief, meteorology, and coordination of radio frequency use); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations would very likely result in the United Nations becoming an unchecked anti-U.S. propaganda arena for the Soviet Union and the Third World; and

WHEREAS, many Soviet diplomats and diplomats from Soviet-bloc nations at the UN are intelligence agents principally engaged in stealing technological secrets from the U.S., making the United Nations a base for foreign espionage; and

WHEREAS, the Administration fully realizes the necessity to forcefully stand-up for U.S. interests in the United Nations to urge the United Nations to concentrate on its original purposes, and to economize on UN expenditures consistently with U.S. domestic budgetary reductions; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick has been an able, candid, and forceful representative of U.S. national interests at the United Nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that we urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes; and, be it further

(Res.502 -continued)

RESOLVED, that we urge the Administration to refuse to finance wasteful or inappropriate UN activities or to provide a disproportionately large share of any UN funding; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the Administration to take necessary actions to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Foreign Relations Commission continues to study and evaluate U.S. participation in the United Nation and report periodically.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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RESOLUTION 503

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST

WHEREAS, significant progress toward Arab-Israeli peace had been made under the Camp David agreements prior to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a continuing national interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation within secure borders living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for most of their petroleum and the United States imports a smaller, but significant, amount of petroleum from the area;

WHEREAS, restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that the U.S. Government adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East which strives to achieve the following objectives:

(1) A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arabs under the Camp David framework.

(2) A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian-Gulf states to Europe, Japan, and the United States.

(3) Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

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RESOLUTION 504

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: PEACE ACADEMY

WHEREAS, a Presidential commission has recommended establishment of a U.S. Peace Academy having the function of promoting peace through "peace learning"; and

WHEREAS, a private organization supporting such an entity, the National Peace Academy Campaign, contends: "there is now a science--tested and proved in actual practice--that can help make war obsolete and this science can be taught, learned and applied anywhere in the world"; and

WHEREAS, it is possible such a U.S. Peace Academy, concentrating its attention on peace rather than national security, could become a center of support for foreign policy initiatives inimical to U.S. national interests; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently favored peace through strength, not peace at any price; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan has called for coordinated efforts to promote the spread of democratic ideals and practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24-26, 1982, that Congress be requested not to establish a U.S. Peace Academy as outlined in the report of the Presidential commission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that Congress be urged to use any funding intended for the U.S. Peace Academy for the promotion of democratic ideals and practices in such ways as may be determined by the Presidential study of democracy currently being initiated.