

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 567

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the possible easing of restrictions on the sale of lethal military equipment to the Government of Vietnam.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the possible easing of restrictions on the sale of lethal military equipment to the Government of Vietnam.

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
- 2 (1) Vietnam is an important emerging partner
- 3 with which the United States increasingly shares
- 4 strategic and economic interests, including improv-
- 5 ing bilateral and multilateral capacity for humani-
- 6 tarian assistance and disaster relief, upholding the
- 7 principles of freedom of navigation and peaceful res-
- 8 olution of international disputes, strengthening an

1 open regional trading order, and maintaining a fa-
2 vorable balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region;

3 (2) the Government of Vietnam has recently
4 taken modest but encouraging steps to improve its
5 human rights record, including signing the United
6 Nations Convention Against Torture and other
7 Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punish-
8 ment, adopted by the United Nations General As-
9 sembly December 10, 1984, increasing registrations
10 for places of worship, taking greater action to com-
11 bat human trafficking, reviewing the Criminal Code,
12 and beginning high-level engagement with the
13 United States and international human rights non-
14 governmental organizations;

15 (3) in light of growing challenges in the Asia-
16 Pacific region and some steps by the Government of
17 Vietnam to improve its human rights record, the
18 President should begin a process to ease the United
19 States prohibition on the sale of lethal military
20 equipment to Vietnam, which is maintained under
21 executive authority and can be changed without leg-
22 islative action, but should not be changed without
23 consultation with Congress;

24 (4) easing the prohibition on the sale of lethal
25 military equipment to Vietnam at this time solely

1 with regard to maritime and coastal defense would
2 further United States national security interests, but
3 steps beyond this to ease further the prohibition
4 would require the Government of Vietnam to take
5 significant and sustained steps to protect human
6 rights, including releases of prisoners of conscience
7 and legal reforms;

8 (5) the United States Government should con-
9 tinue to support civil society in Vietnam, including
10 advocates for religious freedom, press freedom, and
11 labor rights who seek to use peaceful means to build
12 a strong and prosperous Vietnam that respects
13 human rights and the rule of law; and

14 (6) the United States Government should con-
15 tinue to engage the Government of Vietnam in a
16 high-level dialogue and specify what steps on human
17 rights would be necessary for the Government of
18 Vietnam to take in order to continue strengthening
19 the bilateral relationship, including to ease further
20 the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equip-
21 ment.

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