



News from Congressman Ben Rosenthal

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FIVE SENIOR CONGRESSMEN INTRODUCE RESOLUTION PROHIBITING MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR

Five senior Democratic Congressmen, all early opponents of the Vietnam War in the 1960s, today introduced a Joint Resolution, the strongest one put forward thus far in Congress, calling for an immediate prohibition on all further military aid and assistance to El Salvador and the immediate withdrawal of all military advisors in that country. The group includes Congressmen Phillip Burton (D-Calif), John Conyers (D-Mich), Don Edwards (D-Calif), Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wisc) and Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-NY).

"No more arms, no more military advisors and no more military training", Rosenthal said in a statement on the floor of the House of Representatives, on behalf of the sponsors of the resolution.

"We recognize the differences between El Salvador and Vietnam. What distresses us are the chillingly familiar similarities. What is a civil war in a small country, we are told by the Administration, is directed by Moscow through their Cuban intermediaries. American global strength, we are told, is being tested in the villages and mountains of this tiny country. Human rights violations, we are being told, are an inevitable consequence of this test. Political negotiations are a sign of weakness. Peace will be won by more war.

"We have heard it all before; it was wrong then and it is wrong now", said Rosenthal.

"Unless America ceases its intervention in El Salvador, the conflict in the Caribbean Basin will escalate and spill over to other countries in the region. The Caribbean is in danger of becoming for the eighties what Southeast Asia was

mountains of this tiny country. Human rights violations, we are being told, are an inevitable consequence of this test. Political negotiations are a sign of weakness. Peace will be won by more war.

"We have heard it all before; it was wrong then and it is wrong now", said Rosenthal.

"Unless America ceases its intervention in El Salvador, the conflict in the Caribbean Basin will escalate and spill over to other countries in the region. The Caribbean is in danger of becoming for the eighties what Southeast Asia was for the sixties.

"It is time to get out before we are in over our heads. We had no business there in the first place. What's called for is a political settlement among the Salvadoran people themselves.

(more)

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"We support the many other congressional initiatives that have been presented so far. We invite still more. The overwhelming opposition to the Administration's El Salvador policy by the vast majority of Americans should be taken as a demand that Congress put an end to this reckless course." Rosenthal said.

He concluded, "The time of reckoning has arrived. We see the handwriting on the wall. We must prevent the growth of war now, or we will pay dearly for it later. We believe it is possible to stop this inevitable escalation of conflict, if the American people voice their opposition and Congress moves swiftly in response."

The Congressmen called on their fellow colleagues to join the effort to curtail further escalation and intervention in the Caribbean.

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97TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. ROSENTHAL (for himself, MR. PHILIP BURTON, MR. CONYERS,
MR. DON EDWARDS, and MR. KASTENMEIER) introduced the
following joint resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on _____.

JOINT RESOLUTION

To prohibit military assistance for El Salvador.

- 1 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of
- 2 the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 That the President may not--

2 (1) provide any assistance for El Salvador under
3 chapter 2 (military assistance), including section 506
4 (special drawdown authority), or chapter 5
5 (international military education and training) of part
6 II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

7 (2) issue any letters of offer, extend any credits,
8 or issue any guarantees with respect to El Salvador
9 under the Arms Export Control Act;

10 (3) enter into any leases of defense articles for El
11 Salvador under chapter 6 of the Arms Export Control Act;
12 and

13 (4) issue any licenses under section 38 of the Arms
14 Export Control Act for the export of defense articles or
15 defense services sold commercially.

16 SEC. 2. The President shall immediately order the prompt
17 withdrawal from El Salvador of all members of the United
18 States Armed Forces who are performing defense services
19 under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or the Arms Export
20 Control Act, conducting international military education and
21 training activities under chapter 5 of part II of the
22 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, or performing international
23 military assistance and sales program management functions
24 under section 515 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

25 SEC. 3. The requirements of this resolution may not be

1 waived under section 614 of the Foreign Assistance Act of
2 1961 or any other provision of law.