

..... CONGRESS  
..... SESSION

# S. CON. RES.

(NOTE.—Fill in all blank lines except those provided for the date, number, and reference of resolution.)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Kennedy (for himself, Mr. Cranston, and Mr. Tsongas)

submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Deploring the assassination of Benigno Aquino and calling for the conduct of a thorough, independent and impartial investigation and for free and fair elections in the Philippines,

Whereas Benigno Aquino, Jr., was a leading figure in the effort to restore democracy and constitutional rule in the Philippines;

Whereas in returning to the Philippines he willingly faced death to lead the struggle for the restoration of democracy and non-violent change;

Whereas his brutal assassination was a despicable act that cut short the life of a dedicated Filipino patriot who was deeply committed to the cause of peaceful change and the restoration of democracy in his country;

Whereas in the wake of his assassination there may be a greater tendency on the part of the Filipino people to support those who would resort to violence as a way to bring about change in the Philippines;

Whereas the elections for the National Assembly scheduled for May, 1984 have now become more important than ever, in terms of providing the Filipino people with an opportunity to peacefully determine their own future and to bring about such political changes as they may desire;

now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

1. That the Congress strongly deplores the brutal assassination of Benigno Aquino, and expresses its sincere condolences to his family and to all Filipinos who have shared his commitment to democracy;
2. That it is the sense of the Congress that all appropriate steps must be taken to achieve a thorough, independent and impartial investigation of the Aquino assassination in a timely fashion and to bring to justice all those responsible for that assassination;
3. That it is further the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should not visit the Philippines until there has been a full and accurate accounting of all the facts surrounding Senator Aquino's assassination and until the President's security can be adequately guaranteed.
4. That it is the policy of the United States to support genuine, free and fair elections to the National Assembly in May, 1984, and, to that end, to urge the Government of the Philippines to take the necessary steps to secure the full participation of the opposition parties in these elections, including the prompt reconstitution of an objective, impartial Electoral Commission and the restoration of full freedom of the press, so that all issues can be fully and openly debated and decided.
5. That the United States Government should take into account the conduct of the Government of the Philippines investigation into the Aquino assassination and the fairness of the 1984 National Assembly elections in the conduct of its relations with the Government of the Philippines.

Purpose: -----  
-----  
-----

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES— ----- Cong., ----- Sess.

S. -----  
H.R. ----- (or Treaty -----) SHORT TITLE

(title) -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

( ) Referred to the Committee on -----  
and ordered to be printed

( ) Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

INTENDED to be proposed by Mr. Tsongas (for himself and Mr. Cranston)

Viz:

1 On page 24, after line 19 add the following new section:

2 "THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR BENIGNO AQUINO"

3 Sec. 122(a) The Congress finds that:

4 (1) for three years Benigno Aquino, who served his country  
5 as a Mayor, Governor and Senator, found refuge in the United  
6 States and through his presence here served to strengthen the  
7 historically close relationship between the American and Philippine  
8 people;

9 (2) in returning to the Philippines Benigno Aquino willingly  
10 faced death to lead the struggle for the restoration of democracy  
11 and non-violent change;

12 (3) the circumstances of Benigno Aquino's murder, while  
13 in the custody of Philippine security forces, raises serious  
14 questions about the negligence of Philippine authorities in  
15 protecting Senator Aquino and the possible complicity of the  
16 authorities in his murder;

17 (4) Benigno Aquino's death is mourned in his own country  
18 and by friends of democracy everywhere.

19 (b) The Congress expresses its outrage over the brutal assassination  
20 of Benigno Aquino while in the custody of Philippine security  
21 forces and conveys its sympathy to Senator Aquino's family  
22 and to the Philippine people over the loss of a great patriot

and a great democrat.

(c) It is the sense of the Congress that the most fitting memorial to Benigno Aquino would be the prompt restoration of democracy and human rights in the Philippines and that the United States should support Filipinos who share Senator Aquino's commitment to peaceful change.

(d) It is further the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should not visit the Philippines until there has been a full and accurate accounting of all the facts surrounding Senator Aquino's assassination and until the President's security can be adequately guaranteed.

(e) The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency shall make the contents of this section known to the government and people of the Philippines.