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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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First District Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) yesterday joined 18 House Republicans in calling for new hearings on the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. The resolution sponsored by the G.O.P. Representatives calls on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to consider whether the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution "empowers the President to carry forward military operations of the current scope and magnitude in Southeast Asia, whether it requires modification in light of changing political and military conditions, and whether alternative legislative action is necessary."

The resolution is as follows:

TO CALL FOR HEARINGS ON THE GULF OF TONKIN RESOLUTION (P. L. 88-408)

Whereas a clear priority in American foreign policy to seek and effectuate the earliest possible termination of the conflict and cessation of hostilities in Southeast Asia has never been established; and

Whereas the history of the military effort over the past six years, and particularly since August of 1964, has demonstrated that the gradual increase in the commitment of troops, the gradual intensification of military pressure, and the gradual increase in the demands being made by the present Administration upon the American public has resulted only in a war of gradualism which has not caused the Communist forces in South Vietnam to respect the territorial integrity of that country; and

Whereas substantial doubt exists among members of Congress and the American public as to whether the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of August, 1964 (P.L. 88-408) provides adequate authority to the President to deal with the military situation in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas since its enactment:

1. The number of United States military troops committed to Vietnam has vastly increased, from about 16,000 men to 466,000 men; and
2. A projection of the current annual rate shows that more Americans will be killed this year (11,190) than in all of the previous five years combined (8,155) and almost twice as many Americans will be wounded; and

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3. Over 500 American pilots and planes valued at over one billion dollars have been lost; and

4. The flow of enemy supplies into South Vietnam from North Vietnam has tripled in the last year -- from 100 tons a day to 300 tons a day; and

5. Enemy strength has increased 2 1/2 times -- from 120,000 men in January of 1965 to 297,000 men today -- more than matching, proportionately, the buildup of American strength; and

6. Reports from the northern provinces of South Vietnam indicate that United States Marine units are under more severe military pressure this year than last; and

7. The South Vietnamese Army has been largely ineffective as a partner in the military effort, as evidenced by its inability to provide security for pacification teams, by its desertion rate of one out of every four, and by the need for United States troops to assume an increasingly greater role in the direction and fighting of the conflict, even to the virtual exclusion of the South Vietnamese Army; and

8. This war has become increasingly an American war, as evidenced by the call of the South Vietnamese Chief of State, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, for more American troops while refusing to call for a general mobilization of his own country, and by the fact that more Americans were killed in the last three months than South Vietnamese -- a rate of 2,427 to 2,010 -- and that over twice as many Americans as South Vietnamese were wounded during the past two months; and

9. There is no indication that the military and political activities of the United States since 1964 have in any way brought a settlement closer, either by negotiation or military power, but instead have resulted in death and casualties to many Americans and a drain on our budget of over 20 billion dollars per year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution by the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, the Committee on Foreign Affairs shall forthwith commence hearings to review the implementation of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (P.L. 88-408) and to consider whether it empowers the President to carry forward military operations of the current scope and magnitude in Southeast Asia, whether it requires modification in light of changing political and military conditions, and whether alternative legislative action is necessary.