

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 19, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today said that the Senate passage of a Resolution commending the joint Army-Air Force effort to liberate American prisoners of war held captive in North Vietnam "affirms not only the Senate's recognition of the courage demonstrated by the men who took part in the hazardous mission to rescue American prisoners of war from the Son Tay Prison but also must be interpreted as a strong indication to North Vietnam that we condemn the continued inhumane treatment of American prisoners of war held by North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front."

Senator Dole introduced the Resolution on November 25, hoping that the Senate would give it immediate consideration but it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The resolution was ultimately sponsored by 40 Senators.

The Kansas Senator said, "Their (the Hanoi government) refusal to comply with even the minimal standards of human decency is not acceptable to Americans, whatever their personal opinion of the Vietnam war."

"Passage of this resolution during the Christmas season cannot be a substitute for the return of those American prisoners to their families and loved ones, but it is appropriate that these families know the American people care and join them in their prayers for the safe return of their men."

RESOLUTION

S.486

Relating to the joint Army-Air Force effort to liberate American prisoners of war held captive by North Vietnam.

WHEREAS conditions have not materially improved in the year since Congress passed H. Con. Res. 454 calling for humane treatment and release of American prisoners of war held by North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front; and

WHEREAS increasing numbers of American military personnel remain in captivity in North Vietnam in circumstances which violate the Geneva Convention of 1949 on prisoners of war and offend standards of human decency, some having so remained for as long as six years; and

WHEREAS the government of North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front have refused to identify the prisoners they hold, to allow impartial inspection of camps, to permit free exchange of mail between prisoners and their families, and to release seriously sick and injured prisoners, as required by the Geneva Convention, despite repeated entreaties from world leaders; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the official command, officers and men involved in the military expedition of November 21, 1970, seeking release from captivity of United States prisoners of war believed to be held by the enemy near Hanoi, North Vietnam, be commended for the courage they displayed in this hazardous and humanitarian undertaking which has lifted the hopes and spirits of our brave men imprisoned and fighting, as well as Americans everywhere.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of the Senate to each person who participated in the special joint Army-Air Force rescue mission.