

For Frank Edwards program
6/18/63

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Yesterday's riots in Eastern Berlin, against the Communist rulers of East Germany, were extremely important for United States policy. These riots followed other protests and demonstrations in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. I believe these demonstrations of courage and of desire for freedom show that there is deep unrest within the Soviet empire. And I believe that this is a signal to the United States to take the initiative in encouraging the will for freedom of the peoples behind the Iron Curtain.

Accordingly, I have today introduced the following Resolution in the United States Senate. It is a brief Resolution -- let me read it:

RESOLVED: That the Senate of the United States hereby expresses

- 1) Its profound admiration for the people of Germany in their resistance to Communist totalitarianism;
- 2) Its sense that every effort be made by the Government of the United States to bring about the unification of Germany so that a united Germany may take its place as an equal partner in the family of democratic nations; and
- 3) Its belief that the holding of free elections throughout Germany is the essential first step toward German unification.

I think it is fitting that Congress, as the voice of the American people, should speak on this vital question of German unification. And

I believe our Government should press hard for free elections in Germany, and for German unification, immediately. The German people want a united Germany, and they should have it.

We should not lose any time in assuming the initiative in the cold war, which the brave people of Eastern Europe have made possible for us. There are some other things we can and should do right away. We should intensify the broadcasts of the Voice of America to Eastern Europe. The people there will meet ruthless repression now, and it is up to us to keep their hope for freedom alive.

We should immediately enact the legislation - which is already before the Congress - to allow 240,000 refugees to emigrate to the United States. These people should be made to feel our friendship for them in concrete terms.

We should increase our aid to West Germany so that the people of West Germany can better provide for the thousands of refugees who have crossed the Iron Curtain.

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We should keep up our own defenses, and those of our allies. This means further strengthening the NATO alliance, and it means that we should not cut down on our Mutual Security program. The Soviet can understand strength. We should be in a position to bargain from strength.

I personally believe that one cause of the current troubles within the Soviet empire is the fact that the free world has kept putting pressure on the Iron Curtain. At the same time we have conveyed the message of freedom across the Iron Curtain to the peoples on the other side. We need to do much more of this. We have not had the initiative in the cold war for several months. We have the opportunity now, and we should take it immediately!



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