

tion with and under the direction of the Secretary of Transportation when the Act creating that office goes into effect.

Approved May 6, 1971.

---

No. 5

(Senate Joint Resolution 13)

Senate Joint Resolution to beseech the Communist Forces in Southeast Asia to begin immediate implementation of the Geneva Convention and all provisions contained therein especially those Articles relating to the release of names and the treatment of Prisoners-of-War.

WHEREAS, Nearly 1600 members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America are known or believed to be held as Prisoners-of-War by the Communist Forces in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, The families of 49 of these servicemen are residents of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The said Communist Forces have repeatedly refused to release the names of the men that it holds as prisoners, to allow an inspection of prison facilities by the International Committee of the Red Cross, to permit a regular exchange of mail between Prisoners-of-War and their families and friends, to release seriously ill or injured prisoners, to return the remains of deceased prisoners, and to engage in negotiations for the release of all prisoners; and

WHEREAS, These actions are in direct and flagrant violation of the terms of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners-of-War; and

WHEREAS, All parties to the conflict in Southeast Asia are bound by the provisions of the said convention; and

WHEREAS, The refusal of said Communist Forces to identify the men that it holds prisoner has caused immeasurable distress, agony and uncertainty in the hearts of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, A minimum degree of humanity on the part of the said Communist Forces would require them to release the names of the United States Military Personnel that are in their custody, or at one time has been held by them as prisoners; and

WHEREAS, A decent respect for the opinion of mankind should compel them to do so; and

WHEREAS, All evidence indicates inhumane treatment of prisoners by their captives, violating fundamental standards of human decency; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly of Maryland beseeches the Communist Forces in Southeast Asia to begin immediate implementation of the Geneva Convention and all provisions contained therein especially those Articles relating to the release of names and the treatment of Prisoners-of-War; and be it further