

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Approved May 31, 1974.

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No. 43

(Senate Joint Resolution 34)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Panama Canal and Panama Canal Zone

FOR the purpose of supporting continued undiluted sovereignty of the United States and jurisdiction by the United States over the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal Zone on the Isthmus of Panama.

WHEREAS, United States diplomatic representatives are presently engaged in negotiations with representatives of the de facto Revolutionary Government of Panama, under a declared purpose to surrender to Panama, now or on some future date, U.S. sovereign rights and treaty obligations, as defined below, to maintain, operate, protect, and otherwise govern the United States-owned Canal and its protective frame of the Canal Zone, herein designated as the "Canal" and the "Zone," respectively, situated within the Isthmus of Panama.

Title to and ownership of the Canal Zone, under the right "in perpetuity" to exercise sovereign control thereof, were vested absolutely in the United States and recognized to have been so vested in certain solemnly ratified treaties by the United States with Great Britain, Panama, and Colombia, to wit:

(1) The Hay-Pauncefote Treaty of 1901 between the United States and Great Britain, under which the United States adopted the principles of the Convention of Constantinople of 1888 as the rules for operation, regulation, and management of the Canal; and

(2) The Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty of 1903 between the Republic of Panama and the United States, by the terms of which the Republic of Panama granted full sovereign rights, power, and authority in perpetuity to the United States over the Zone for the construction, maintenance, operation, sanitation, and protection of the Canal to the entire exclusion of the exercise by the Republic of Panama of any such sovereign rights, power, or authority; and