

unwarranted secrecy, thus withholding from our people and their representatives in Congress information vital to the security of the United States and its legitimate economic development.

The United States House of Representatives, on February 2, 1960, adopted House Concurrent Resolution 459, 86th Congress, reaffirming the sovereignty of the United States over the Zone territory by the overwhelming vote of 382 to 12, thus demonstrating the firm determination of our people that the United States maintain its indispensable sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Canal and the Zone.

Under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, the power to dispose of territory or other property of the United States is specifically vested in the Congress, which includes the House of Representatives.

The Panama Canal is essential to the defense and national security of the United States. It is of vital importance to the economy and interoceanic commerce of the United States with the remainder of the free world.

Valuable exports from the State of Maryland and valuable imports to this State go through the Panama Canal to and from distant reaches of the globe.

Under the sovereign control of the United States, the Panama Canal has provided uninterrupted peacetime transit to all nations[ [. ] ] now, therefore be it

[[The traditionally unstable nature of Panamanian politics and government poses an implicit threat to the security of the interests of the United States which for many years have been served by the Panama Canal.

The Republic of Panama possesses neither the technical nor the managerial expertise effectively to operate and maintain the Panama Canal; and the Republic of Panama does not have the capabilities to meet the growing demands placed upon the Canal; now, therefore, be it]]

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(1) The government of the United States should maintain and protect its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the Panama Canal and Zone, and should in no way cede, dilute, forfeit, negotiate, or transfer any of these sovereign rights, power, authority, jurisdiction, territory, or property that are indispensably necessary for the protection and security of the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere;