



"Yes! To this thought I hold with firm persistence; The last result of Wisdom stamps it True;
He only earns his Freedom and Existence who daily conquers them anew!"—Goethe

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REPUBLICANS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORT

THE CAPTIVE NATIONS

1952 - 1972

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Testimony of

Dr. Lev E. Dobriansky

Professor, Georgetown University
Chairman, National Captive Nations Committee
President, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

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Republican National Convention
Platform Hearings
Miami Beach, Fla.
August 15, 1972

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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL CAPTIVE NATIONS COMMITTEE
7303 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20012 Tel. 726-3990

FROM:

P.O. Box 1171, Washington, D.C. 20013

FOR RELEASE:

REPUBLICANS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORT THE CAPTIVE NATIONS 1952-1972

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members, it is a veritable privilege for me to testify again at a Republican Convention Platform hearing on a fundamental issue that has confronted us Americans for some time and will starkly face our people in the foreseeable future. Since 1948, in Philadelphia, it has been in the nature of a moral obligation for me and others to appear quadrennially in testimony for the incorporation of a strong plank on all of the captive nations in Central Europe, within the Soviet Union, in Asia and Cuba. And it is a striking and glorious fact, deserving of prime emphasis at the outset, that from 1952 thru '68, Republicans at each national convention have consistently and unequivocally supported the freedom cause of the captive nations as a basic, integral factor in our national security interest. This enviable record of expressed principle, moral conscience and political perception must be extended in the forthcoming '72 Platform.

A detailed review of this superb and unsurpassed record makes for exciting and constructive reading. By more recent examples, it is sufficient here to just quote in part from the '64 and '68 Platforms. The '64 plank began, "Republicans reaffirm their long-standing commitment to a course leading to eventual liberation of the Communist-dominated nations of Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America..."; the '68 plank declared in part, "The peoples of the captive nations of Eastern Europe will one day regain their freedom and independence. We will strive to speed this day by encouraging the greater political freedom actively sought by several of these nations".

What is equally important is the fact that in the spirit and terms of this long-standing Party commitment, our President has in his Administration issued four successive Captive Nations Week Proclamations, the most recent of which, last month, emphasized that "in much of the world, the struggle for freedom and independence continues". Nowhere does this observation apply more powerfully, more strategically, and more meaningfully for world peace and freedom than to the areas of the captive nations. From the total viewpoint of our American body politic, it is in a real sense regrettable that, in contrast to Senator Humphrey and others, the Democratic Presidential candidate has consistently shown no concern whatsoever for the plight and strategic importance of the captive nations, as so prominently indicated by his absence of participation in last month's 14th Observance of Captive Nations Week which the President appropriately proclaimed. It appears that many have still to learn the Lincoln proverb: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves".

Now for a few essential facts and truths justifying a concise, meaningful and perpetuated captive nations plank in the '72 Platform. First, in addition to reflecting the above tradition, such a plank would also reflect the principles for which millions of Americans annually crystallize their efforts and thoughts during the Captive Nations Week observances. Following Publication 86-90, which President Eisenhower signed in 1959, the 14th Observance last month was featured by extensive Congressional addresses, over two dozen Governor and Mayor proclamations from New Hampshire to Texas and Alaska to Georgia, rallies and events in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans and other major cities, and even in 17 allied countries.

(more)

Second, despite both transient and power balance changes in the past two decades, the massive reality of the captive nations in toto has remained unchanged. Here is the list with the years of communist takeover:

Armenia	1920	Albania	1946
Azerbaijan	1920	Bulgaria	1946
Byelorussia	1920	Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia,	
Cossackia	1920	etc. in Yugoslavia	1946
Georgia	1920	Poland	1947
Idel-Ural	1920	Romania	1947
North Caucasia	1920	Czecho-Slovakia	1948
Ukraine	1920	North Korea	1948
Far Eastern Republic	1922	Hungary	1949
Turkestan	1922	East Germany	1949
Mongolian People's Republic	1924	Mainland China	1949
Estonia	1940	Tibet	1951
Latvia	1940	North Vietnam	1954
Lithuania	1940	Cuba	1960

With regard to South Vietnam, Free China and others, the question of "Who's Next" on this list is a most valid one if you consider the policies advocated by those who oppose the President.

Third, as the President indicated in his '72 Captive Nations Week Proclamation, a year doesn't pass without new eruptions for freedom and independence among the captive nations. To mention just a recent few, the self-immolations in Lithuania, the mass arrests of dissidents in Ukraine, religious resistance in Czecho-Slovakia, the upsurge of Croat nationalism in Yugoslavia, the swim of hundreds of youth from Red China are indicators of the persistent struggle for freedom in the captive nations. Fourth, it is vitally important to distinguish between detente, involving negotiations with Red regimes, and any politico-moral acquiescence to the permanent captivity of these nations. There is nothing that Moscow, Peking and others politically crave for more than the latter from us, but the very fact of the President's issuance of these proclamations demonstrates that such immoral acquiescence is unattainable. And fifth, the far-seeing diplomatic offensive of the President toward both Moscow and Peking underwrites the growing importance of those numerous captive nations in the USSR and Red China, opening up new frontiers of contacts and knowledge that in due time will dissipate typical American myths that these two imperial complexes are made up of only Russians and Chinese respectively.

In the light of these and my other observations, the following captive nations plank is proposed for your acceptance:

"The Republican Party has consistently and unswervingly upheld the goals of freedom and independence for all the captive nations in Eurasia and in Cuba. 'Yet,' as President Nixon's latest proclamation of Captive Nations Week stresses, 'in much of the world, the struggle for freedom and independence continues'. In fixed principle and by flexible deeds we support this struggle, and sharply distinguish between detente for peaceful negotiation and any immoral acquiescence to the permanent captivity of nations in the communist empire. Our firm faith in and dedication to the eventual freedom of all the captive nations from imperialist communist rule countervail in the spirit of 'peaceful coexistence' the communist ideology of subverting free world institutions."