

# AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD FREEDOM

Statement by Thomas A. Lane, President, American Council For World Freedom  
before the Platform Hearings  
Republican National Committee  
August 14, 1972  
Miami, Florida

I am speaking for the American Council for World Freedom, an organization of organizations and individuals deeply concerned about the erosion of freedom in the United States and in the world. We thank you for this opportunity to offer suggestions for the Republican Party Platform.

Political freedom is measured by the degree in which the individual is master of his government. It is defined in a system of law to which all citizens are subject, a system which fairly regulates the relationship of individuals and institutions, which is known to all and which is administered impartially with special favor to no individual, class or institution.

Conversely, tyranny is measured by the degree in which the individual is the subject of government, exposed to its whims and prejudices, subject to its arbitrary and capricious interpretation of the law, dependent upon it for work and for income.

In the world today, the great protagonists of these opposed concepts of government are the United States and the Soviet Union. In the United States, the spirit of freedom has produced an economic development

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unprecedented in the history of the world. In the Soviet Union, a conquest-oriented political elite has exacted high tribute from the people in order to build the world's greatest military power.

The Soviet system is known as Bolshevism, or more generally as communism. The system reposes unlimited powers in a self-perpetuating elite which reject the mores of freedom to practice a ruthless subordination of all other values to the self-conceived interests of the ruling elite. Thus, standards of human conduct common to all civilized cultures are rejected because they compete with the interests of the ruling class. Concepts of human dignity and of individual worth are likewise rejected because they would limit the powers of the ruling elite. Religion is persecuted because it is a competing force in the lives of citizens. Soviet communism constitutes the most absolute concept of tyranny the world has ever known.

The aim of world conquest given to the Soviet Communist Party by Lenin is still the driving force of the Soviet rulers today. Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev have never wavered in their dedication to that goal.

Whereas, the Leninist vision of world conquest was only a dream, the Brezhnev vision must be recognized as a potential reality. The Soviet Union's rapid build-up of military power, taken in conjunction with U.S. refusal to compete in the field of strategic arms production, has given the U.S.S.R. a growing military superiority which will tempt Soviet leaders to move aggressive assaults on the free world if not to a first strike against the United States.

The military forces of the United States protect not only the United States but the whole free world. If our defense fails, the whole free world will be lost. It is imperative that our defense not fail.

While the conversion of the ruling slate of the Soviet Union to civilized standards of international conduct is devoutly to be wished, it is not to be expected. There is no evidence that Party Secretary Brezhnev has softened in any degree the mandate of Lenin proclaiming undying hostility to western civilization.

The United States has for forty years pursued the illusion that it could by cooperation and good will moderate the hostility of the Soviet Union. All efforts have failed. The product of our misjudgment has been a great expansion of Soviet power and hegemony. Except in brief periods of awakening when it condemned the communist terror and expansion, the United States has failed to face up realistically to the challenge of Soviet tyranny. It has been bemused by hopes that an accommodation of differences could be negotiated. It has fostered illusions of detente which disarmed free world resistance to communist subversion and conquest.

Some political party must restore a sense of reality to U.S. foreign policy. Some party must address the reality of communist purpose, daily demonstrated in the fate of the Captive Nations, and in the waging of aggressive war by proxy, and must chart a foreign policy related to that reality. Historically and ideologically, that should be the role of the Republican Party.

The proper address of free men to tyranny is to overthrow the tyrannists. By that course, free men align themselves with the victims of tyranny and against the tyrannists. That is where free men should stand.

Alas! We find today that U.S. foreign policy is committed to the conciliation of the tyrannists at the expense of the oppressed peoples. This is why the voice of freedom is mute. This is why tyranny expands its domain at the expense of freedom.

This misrepresentation of the communist regimes as merely another political system has had deepening effects on the domestic political scene. The illusion of negotiating detente with the communist powers has disarmed the home front against the subversion and class conflict fomented by communist cadres. Disorders have mounted. The courts sow confusion about the bounds of "free speech". Treason is extenuated. Our misjudgment of the enemy increases our vulnerability to his strategy. All around us we see the public character of the American people in shambles.

The truly essential prerequisite for the shaping of sound national policy is a correct appraisal of the threat to our existence. In recent years it has been politically expedient to avoid that judgment by pretending the threat does not exist. We have persisted in that self-deception to the point of allowing superior military strength to a country which commands only one-half our industrial resources. We must change course.

We therefore call upon the Republican Party to give new direction to America. We ask it to identify publicly the true purpose and intentions of the communist powers. We ask it to align America with the oppressed peoples living under communist tyranny and against the tyrannists who oppress them. We ask the party to condemn the terror and tyranny practiced by communist regimes and to declare our solidarity with the oppressed

peoples. We ask the Government of the United States to call on the United Nations for a new burst of freedom, for the liberalization of the communist states and for the adjustment of all political systems to the will of the people governed. To that end we offer the following resolutions:

1. Whereas the massacre of the anti-communist leadership in areas of South Vietnam coming under communist control and the persecution of talented individuals in the Soviet Union who oppose the reigning tyranny evidence the barbaric quality of the communist system,

Resolved, that the Republican Party condemns these affronts to freedom and humanity and calls upon the ruling tyrants to show a more human face to their own peoples.

2. Whereas, the rapid build-up of Soviet strategic weapons poses a serious challenge to the survival of the United States and of the free world,

Resolved, that the Republican Party endorses an American policy of maintaining military superiority over all challengers, a position consistent with U.S. power and responsibility in the world.

3. Whereas, the peace offensive of the communist powers have had considerable effect in misleading free countries about the danger of communist aggression,

Resolved, that the United States should publicly expose and condemn in the United Nations the real nature and fruits of communist aggression.

4. Whereas, the intensification of communist subversion in the United States threatens our internal security,

Resolved, that the Republican Party calls for the strict and impartial enforcement of all laws against subversive activities in the U.S.

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