

U.S. Sale of Cluster Munitions to South Korea

Whereas, in June 2012, the Pentagon's arms sales agency (Defense Security Cooperation Agency) notified the U.S. Congress of its intension to sell 367 advanced cluster bombs (CBU-105D/B WCMD Sensor Fuzed Weapons) to the South Korean Air Force,

Whereas, the proposed arms sales is valued at \$325 million, and the prime beneficiary of this sales is Textron Systems Corporation, a major weapons manufacturer in Wilmington, MA,

Whereas, the CBU-105 cluster bomb is a weapon of mass destruction, each weighing 420 kg, that can disperse a total of 40 heat-seeking bomblets, covering an area of 40 acres,

Whereas, the Pentagon already sold to South Korea other numerous cluster bombs, including CBU-87, CBU-97, CBU-103, M-26 rockets, ATACMS missiles, etc.,

Whereas, like landmines, cluster bomb is an indiscriminate weapon which can inflict gross sufferings upon civilians, during armed conflict and many years thereafter, due to the frequent failure of its smaller bomblets to explode upon impact,

Whereas, according to the Cluster Munition Coalition, cluster bombs caused more civilian casualties in Iraq in 2003 and Kosovo in 1999 than any other weapon system,

Whereas, the proposed sale will violate the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an international treaty that bans the production, transfer, stockpile, and use of cluster munitions,

Whereas, the proposed sales will violate Paragraph 13(d) of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, which prohibits "introduction into Korea of reinforcing....weapons and ammunition," and provoke further military tensions and arms race on the Korean Peninsula,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Miami, Florida, on August 11, 2012,

- 1) Condemns the proposed Pentagon sales of cluster bombs to South Korea;
- 2) Calls upon the Congress to oppose the proposed sales;
- 3) Calls upon the Obama administration to stop selling the cluster bombs to South Korea and other nations immediately, and join the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and
- 4) Urges all VFP members and local chapters, as an expression of our concern on this issue, to send a copy of this resolution to our Representatives and Senators in Congress.

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