

OCTOBER 10, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 15552 -- Act for the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons. This bill implements two international conventions to prevent and punish criminal acts against foreign officials, the diplomatic community, officers and employees of recognized international organizations, and their families.

H.R. 15552 will:

- Include "Internationally protected persons" who are the representatives, officers, employees or agents of "public international organizations," as defined in the International Organizations Immunities Act, within the scope of statutes dealing with the killing, kidnapping, and assault of foreign officials or official guests, as well as their families.
- Establish new felony offenses of attempted murder, manslaughter, and kidnapping of members of the international community.
- Broaden the current prohibition against assaults and other violent attacks upon a foreign official to include violent attacks on foreign missions, and the private residences and means of transportation of foreign officials and internationally protected persons.
- Expand current statute, which proscribes willful intimidation, coercion, threatening or harassment, to also make the attempt to such offenses a crime against foreign officials and other internationally protected persons.
- Establish as a misdemeanor offense the trespassing upon the property of a foreign government or international organization with intent to intimidate, coerce, threaten or harass.
- Establish new felony offenses of threatening to kill, kidnap, or assault, or making extortionate demands upon, foreign officials, official guests and internationally protected persons.
- Assert the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the U.S. in any such felony offense when the alleged offender is present in the U.S., aboard a U.S. - owned vessel, or within U.S. controlled territory, regardless of the place where the offense was committed or the nationality of the victim or alleged offender.
- Authorize the Attorney General to request assistance from other Federal, State, or local agencies, as well as the Departments of Army, Navy (including the Marine Corps), and Air Force in the event of either conspiracy against or overt attacks upon the facilities of foreign governments or international organizations, as well as upon internationally protected persons.
- Expressly provide that (1) the Act is not intended to preempt State law and (2) local officials have the right and obligation to arrest for Federal as well as local crimes.

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