

SENATE RESOLUTION 834—RE-AFFIRMING THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM OVER SECOND THOMAS SHOAL AND SUPPORTING THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT AGGRESSION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 834

Whereas Second Thomas Shoal (also known as "Ayungin Shoal") is located within the Spratly Islands inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone;

Whereas in 1951, the United States and the Republic of the Philippines signed the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, making the two countries treaty allies;

Whereas in 1999, the Philippine Navy intentionally grounded the BRP Sierra Madre on Second Thomas Shoal to establish a maritime outpost in the Spratly Islands;

Whereas since grounding the BRP Sierra Madre, the Philippines has continuously hosted a contingent of Philippine Marines on the ship;

Whereas the People's Republic of China falsely claims "indisputable sovereignty" over Second Thomas Shoal and other areas surrounding the shoal;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly engaged in increasingly hostile and aggressive behavior towards Filipino fishermen and Coast Guard vessels around Second Thomas Shoal, including by deploying tear gas, firing water cannons, deliberately ramming other vessels, and blocking Philippine vessels' maritime routes;

Whereas in December 2023, a vessel operated by the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China surrounded a Filipino supply ship and assaulted it with water cannons as it operated in an area around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on May 19, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China harassed and attempted to stop a Philippine vessel that was evacuating sick personnel from the BRP Sierra Madre;

Whereas on June 17, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China brutally assaulted a Philippine Coast Guard vessel en route to resupply the BRP Sierra Madre, which injured at least eight Filipino sailors and caused one Filipino sailor to lose a thumb;

Whereas on July 22, 2024, it was reported that the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines reached an agreement designed to reduce hostilities around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 19, 2024, the People's Republic of China ignored the July 22, 2024, agreement and intentionally rammed two Philippine Coast Guard vessels on a resupply mission near Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 26, 2024, the People's Republic of China deployed 40 ships to block two Philippine vessels, which were attempting to resupply the BRP Teresa Magbanua, the flagship of the Philippine Coast Guard;

Whereas on August 31, 2024, vessels operated by the People's Republic of China repeatedly rammed and surrounded the BRP Teresa Magbanua in an area east of Second Thomas Shoal, which caused damages to its hull;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has reiterated the United States policy that "an armed attack on Philippine Armed

Forces' public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific, including the South China Sea, would invoke U.S. defense commitments under our mutual defense treaty";

Whereas the Department of State has reaffirmed that the United States "stands with its ally, the Philippines, and condemns the dangerous and escalatory actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC) against lawful Philippine maritime operations ..."; and

Whereas, the Department of State has also stated, "The United States reaffirms that Article IV of the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft - including those of its Coast Guard - anywhere in the South China Sea": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that—

(A) Second Thomas Shoal lies within the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of the Philippines; and

(B) the People's Republic of China's effort to harass and endanger Philippine vessels in the area are violations of Philippine sovereign rights;

(2) supports efforts to increase military assistance to the Republic of the Philippines to assist in its effort to combat blatant aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, including near Second Thomas Shoal;

(3) reaffirms the commitments made by the United States to the Republic of the Philippines in the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty; and

(4) encourages increased cooperation and training with the Republic of the Philippines, including with the Philippine Coast Guard, and strong investments in United States shipbuilding and other United States military capabilities to ensure that our obligations to the Philippines will be carried out.

SENATE RESOLUTION 835—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (THE "QUAD") AND WELCOMING THE UPCOMING QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 835

Whereas Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are 4 leading maritime democracies representing nearly 2,000,000,000 people and over ⅓ of global gross domestic product;

Whereas this grouping of countries, known as the "Quad", was launched 20 years ago in response to the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami;

Whereas, since its inception, the Quad partners have demonstrated their commitment to the success of the Indo-Pacific region by supporting regional institutions and promoting cooperation, mutual respect for sovereignty, and a rules-based international order;

Whereas Quad Foreign Ministers have met 8 times since 2019;

Whereas Quad Leaders have met 5 times, including twice virtually, since 2021, including most recently in Sydney in 2023;

Whereas Quad country representatives convene on a regular basis at all levels to exchange ideas and drive cooperation toward our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States has directed over \$100,000,000 in foreign assistance to

Quad-related programs, designed to build an Indo-Pacific region that is prosperous, secure, connected, and resilient;

Whereas the Quad, through the Quad Vaccine Partnership, provided 400,000,000 COVID-19 vaccines and expanded vaccine production capacity in the Indo-Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic and has strengthened the Indo-Pacific's ability to detect and respond to outbreaks of diseases with pandemic potential through the Health Security Partnership;

Whereas, in 2022, the Quad established the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness to provide near-real-time, cost-effective, cutting-edge maritime domain awareness, enabling over 2 dozen countries to monitor their waters, counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, respond to climate change and natural disasters, and enforce their laws within their own territorial waters;

Whereas the Quad continues to deliver quality, resilient infrastructure around the Indo-Pacific region to increase connectivity, build regional capacity, and meet critical needs;

Whereas the Quad welcomed the 2023 launch of the Quad Investors Network, a nongovernmental network fostering private sector investment into critical and emerging technologies in Quad countries and across the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Quad has demonstrated leadership in promoting the development and governance of critical and emerging technologies, ensuring the protection of democratic values and human rights in the digital age;

Whereas, in 2023, Quad Leaders launched the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience and have invested in trusted undersea cables to enhance digital connectivity and secure, sustainable, and resilient telecommunications infrastructure among the Pacific Islands;

Whereas, in 2023, the Quad launched an Open RAN deployment in Palau to bring secure, trusted information and communications technology infrastructure, the first project of its kind in the Pacific;

Whereas the Quad has fostered people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the United States, Japan, India, and Australia through exchange programs for infrastructure experts and STEM students, including the Quad Fellowship program; and

Whereas, in September 2024, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan will visit the United States for the fourth Quad Leaders Summit at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the Quad Leaders to the United States;

(2) recognizes the Quad's significant contributions to global health security, climate resilience, maritime security, technological cooperation, and economic development;

(3) welcomes and encourages sustained cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) stands ready to support efforts to strengthen the Quad and advance its objective of delivering tangible benefits for the Indo-Pacific region;

(5) affirms the Quad as a centerpiece of United States foreign policy within the Indo-Pacific region;

(6) views the Quad as an important mechanism for upholding the rules-based international order and a source of United States strength;

(7) recognizes the importance of expanding people-to-people programs between the 4 Quad member countries, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands;