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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Amendment to the Mutual Security Act of 1954,  
1958 May 29

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

**[00:00]**

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1958.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. The Senate this week is continuing to debate the proposed extension of the Mutual Security Program. We have already discussed this matter to some extent in previous statements, but because the issue is now current, it seems in order to make a more specific appraisal of some parts of it. Mutual security is virtually an established part of this country's foreign policy. It grew out of necessity on the part of freedom-loving nations in Europe to resist aggressive tendencies of the Soviet Union, which became increasingly evident soon after the end of World War II. It's first real application came in the historic Marshall Plan, which literally held Western Europe together until the war-ravaged economies of those countries could be restored. The program took on an even more specific meaning when President Truman, through the creation of the Truman Doctrine, made economic and military assistance necessary to the people of Greece and Turkey in order to resist the threat of international Communism. As we all know, this bold and decisive step was eminently successful. Later on, as the Soviet threat of aggression continued, the United States and its free allies joined in establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and then, when open Communist aggression came in Korea, the United States exercised its leadership to halt this most grave challenge to the entire Pacific area. Thus, in these post-war years, we have been instrumental in preserving not only the existence of many free governments, but in making it possible for them to develop and expand their economic resources. It would seem in the natural course of events that having given so much and so generously of our hard-earned tax dollars abroad that people of the United States should be able to either end the Mutual Security Program or sharply curtail it. But events of the moment would appear, to some, to prevent such a decision. I am fully aware that many of our citizens are indignant over the recent incidents in South America and feel that some of the countries which we have helped, which we have tried to help, are ungrateful. Certainly we cannot purchase friendship, no matter what the cost. But the issues here are larger than the attitude of some individuals or political

organizations in the various nations where anti-American violence has erupted. Actually, in helping our friends abroad, we are trying to build a stronger system of international defense by keeping these nations free of Communist domination and as a part of our overall collective security system. In past years, I have supported foreign aid, although from time to time, it has been my feeling that the extent of such aid could be reduced. At the present time, some members of the Senate believe that the current request for approximately four billion dollars can be lessened without jeopardizing the welfare of the foreign aid program abroad. Many of us would perhaps be more willing to support the entire appropriation as requested by the President were it not for the present economic recession in the United States. As the leading nation of the free world, we can and must exercise our responsibility in maintaining freedom and Human liberty. Though the cost is high in material goods, yet by any standard, it is far less costly than another war. This is not to suggest that the cancellation of our Foreign Aid Program would automatically bring on another conflict, but no doubt it would give the Communist Block tremendous encouragement. Against the background of the present upheaval in France and the Middle East, America's role in world affairs becomes increasingly dominant. Foreign aid is hopefully one of our insurance factors. It is therefore logical to expect that the program will be carried on, at least to a reasonable extent.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

**[End 04:54]**