

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Working Documents**

1983-1984

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9 September 1983

DOCUMENT 1-657/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr NEWTON DUNN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

concerning the introduction of a Community tax on  
cutprice Soviet merchant shipping

The European Parliament,

- A. alarmed by deliberate under-cutting of merchant shipping freight rates by the Soviet Union to the detriment of free world shipowners who are obliged to make a profit or to go bankrupt,
  - B. aware that in the past two decades the tonnage of the Soviet merchant fleet has increased six fold; that it has risen from fourteenth to sixth place in terms of total national tonnage; that in actual numbers of ships it is already the largest merchant navy in the world and that this poses a threat to the strategic position of the free world,
  - C. conscious of the Community's large share of world sea trade,
  - D. because Soviet freight rates are not based on realistic costings but on subsidised fuel, low wages and no realistic depreciation allowance,
1. Calls for a Community tax to be levied on all shipping services provided to Community charterers by directly or indirectly owned Soviet ships;
  2. Hopes that EFTA, the USA and Japan will follow suit in order to make it more effective;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council of Ministers, EFTA, the government of Japan, and to both houses of the United States Congress.