

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

30 June 1980

DOCUMENT 1-284/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by

Dr SCHIELER and others on behalf of the
Socialist Group¹

Mr WAWRZIK and others on behalf of the Group of the
European People's Party (Christian Democratic
Group)¹

Mrs AGNELLI and others on behalf of the Liberal and
Democratic Group¹

with request for urgent debate pursuant to Rule 14
of the Rules of Procedure, on aid to refugees in the
South China Sea

¹ The request for urgent debate was signed by
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mrs HOFF, Mr GABERT, Mr WALTER,
Mr ARNDT, Mrs FOCKE, Mr VAN MINNEN, Mr COHEN,
Mr OEHLER, Mr PETERS, Mr KLINKENBORG, Mr PELIKAN,
Mrs WEBER, Mr MUNTINGH, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING,
Mr HANSCH, Mr BETTIZA, Mr BANGEMANN, Mr BAUDIS,
Mr CALVEZ, Mrs DEKKER, Miss FLESCH, Mr IRMER,
Mrs SCRIVENER, Mrs MACCIOCHI, Mrs BONINO, Mrs MARTIN,
Mrs PRUVOT, Mrs Tove NIELSEN, Mr GALLAND,
Mr WAWRZIK, Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr MERTENS, Mr VERHAEGEN,
Mr VERROKEN, Mr PENDERS, Mr HELMS, Mr RINSCHÉ,
Mr NORDLOHNE, Mr HABSBURG, Mrs SCHLEICHER, Mr HAHN,
Mr NARDUCCI, Mr DE GUCHT, Mr GEURTSSEN, Mr DELCROZOY

The European Parliament

- recalling the resolutions of the European Parliament of 19 July 1979 on the tragedy of the Indo-Chinese refugees and 10 May 1980 on the deaths of thousands of Cambodian children,
 - having regard to the dramatic increase in the flood of refugees in the South China Sea (10,000 refugees per month and rising),
 - aware that a large number of refugees perish by drowning in the sea,
 - in the knowledge that only one European vessel (Cap Anamur) equipped to rescue shipwrecked refugees is still operating in the China Sea now that other European ships have had to call off their rescue operations,
1. Calls on the Council to prevail upon the governments of the Member States to increase the overall quota of refugees in view of the upsurge in their numbers and to make an allocation among the Member States of the Community;
 2. Calls on the Commission to use Community budget appropriations to support the rescue vessel 'Cap Anamur' rather than a separate European Community vessel;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

Explanatory statement

The status of refugees should not be jeopardised by national political and economic restrictions. The refugee problem requires all Community states to demonstrate solidarity.

The freighter 'Cap Anamur' was converted into a hospital ship in July/August 1979 by a private charity. Since August 1979 the 'Cap Anamur' has been operating in the South China Sea and has provided medical services for tens of thousands of refugees in large camps in Indonesia. At the present time the 'Cap Anamur' is operating purely as a rescue vessel and is now the only ship rescuing boat-people in difficulties at sea. Since February 1980 over 2,500 refugees in extreme peril at sea have been rescued by the 'Cap Anamur'. The ship operates without major administrative costs because all those on board, including the medical teams, are working on a voluntary and unpaid basis. Until now the ship has been financed by voluntary donations. Expenditure to date amounts to DM 4,945,000. The monthly costs (charter, medicine, food, and travelling expenses for doctors) amount to approximately DM 400,000. Funding is currently guaranteed until August 1980. Unless it receives financial aid, the 'Cap Anamur' as the last rescue vessel still operating in the South China Sea, will also have to cease its activities.