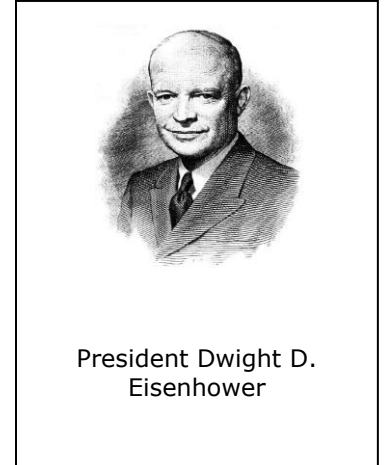


Eighty-Sixth Congress

Jan. 7, 1959-Sept. 1, 1960

Second Administration of Dwight D. ("Ike") Eisenhower

Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace?	3
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	4
Constitutional Amendments.....	4
Major Treaties.....	4
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.....	5
1959 Events.....	6
1960 Events.....	7
Major Acts.....	8



Historical Background

During the State of the Union Address delivered January 5, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke about the importance of U.S. military dominance as a deterrent to war and noted military and related scientific achievements in the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, aircraft capable of flying twice the speed of sound, Earth-orbit satellites, and atomic submarines. As the economy was prosperous with housing starts high, personal income at peak levels, and retail sales strong, Eisenhower anticipated that 1959 would be the most prosperous year in the nation's history.

A year later, Eisenhower expressed concerns about the possibility of negotiating nuclear test ban and disarmament agreements with the Soviet Union in order to check frustrations and prevent crises that could spiral into nuclear war. During this period, an agreement on the peaceful use of Antarctica—assured by a system of inspections—was successfully concluded by 12 nations.

Overall, during the 86th Congress, Cold War relations with the Soviet Union ran the gamut from cordial to extremely bitter. In May 1959, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's six-month deadline for achieving a settlement on the occupation of Berlin passed by almost unnoticed. Two months later, Vice President Richard Nixon received a friendly reception by Russian crowds on his 13-day tour of the Soviet Union. Then in September, at Eisenhower's

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (283 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (65 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (153 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (35 seats)
Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)	Other Parties: None
Speaker of the House: Sam Rayburn	Majority Leader: Lyndon B. Johnson

invitation, Khrushchev visited the United States for consultations with the President and a transcontinental tour. Near the end of his trip, Khrushchev conferred for two days with Eisenhower at the presidential retreat at Camp David, MD. Afterwards it was announced the President would visit the Soviet Union during 1960. However, when a high-altitude U-2 reconnaissance plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down by Soviet missiles over Russia the following May, Khrushchev denounced the spy flight and withdrew the already-accepted invitation for Eisenhower to visit Russia.

Domestically, labor disputes were an issue of concern, especially the steel strike of 1959. In the area of farm policy, Eisenhower urged Congress to enact legislation to gear production more closely to markets and achieve increases in farm income.

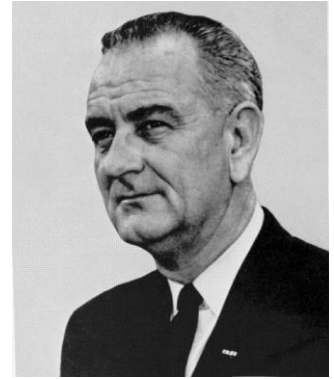
Meanwhile on Capitol Hill, Congress, after more than four decades of legislative proposals, voted in March 1959 to admit Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State. That September, the continual exposure of corruption in labor unions and labor-management collusion by the Senate Select Committee resulted in the passage of the Landrum-Griffin Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, which provided the means for coping with union officials guilty of corruption in the use of union funds. It also included a "Bill of Rights" for labor union members, Federal supervision of union elections, and several major modifications of the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Act of 1947. Of major significance to two million Government workers and their families was the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Act of 1959, establishing a prepaid, voluntary health insurance plan with costs to be equally shared by the Government and the beneficiaries. For non-Federal employees, Congress passed the Social Security Act Amendments for 1960, providing help in the medical care for the elderly to be financed by increased Social Security payments.

On May 6, 1960, Eisenhower signed a new Civil Rights Act, the most important clause of which permitted Federal judges to send referees to supervise voter registration in areas of apparent racial discrimination. During June, U.S participation in the International Development Association was authorized and the Senate ratified a new security treaty with Japan, removing the remaining traces of the post-war occupation. Also, during June, Congress approved the establishment of a formal Federal policy to manage the renewable surface resources of the national forests. Four days later, the Twenty-Third Amendment, which provides the residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in Presidential elections, was sent to the States for ratification.

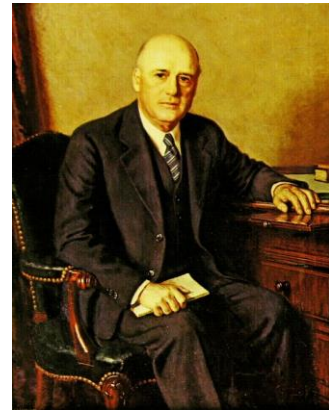
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Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Eisenhower, Dwight D. [Address of the President of the State of the Union](#), House, Jan. 9, 1959, 86th Congress, 1st Session. H.doc.1. ProQuest Congressional, 12182 H.doc.1



Senate Majority Leader
Lyndon B. Johnson



Speaker of the House
Sam Rayburn

War or Peace?

Cold War

While hostilities between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. were not overt, Cold War tensions remained high, and the U.S. continued to build up its military as a deterrent to war. The continuing struggle played out in a number of areas: geographically in places like Cuba and Southeast Asia, and technologically in the form of the Space Race. This latter reached a new level in August 1959 with the launch of NASA's Explorer 6 satellite, which produced the first photographs of earth from space.

In Cuba, Fidel Castro's populist/nationalist '26th of July' reached Havana, forcing Cuban President Fulgencio to resign and flee the island on January 1, 1959. Though President Eisenhower recognized Castro's new revolutionary government, relations between the two countries began to deteriorate almost immediately. At issue for the Federal government were the Castro government's program of agrarian reforms, including the nationalization of industries, such as sugar cane production, with substantial U.S. interests. In response to these moves, the United States boycotted Cuban sugar and halted shipments of petroleum to the island and ultimately banned all exports to the island nation. Facing a crippling shortage of fuel, Castro sought the assistance of the Soviet Union, which was only too willing to find a foothold so close to the continental United States.

In Southeast Asia, a number of developments transpired during this period, which would have considerable significance for the prosecution of the Cold War. In December 1959, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, also known as the Việt Cộng, was founded as a mass political organization dedicated to overthrowing the government of South Vietnam and fighting U.S. interference in the former French Indochina. The Việt Cộng would become synonymous with the communist enemy as the United States intervention in Vietnam continued to grow. Then, in Laos, the Pathet Lao, a communist mass political movement, was founded. Between them, the Pathet Lao in Laos, and the Việt Cộng in South Vietnam, would seek assistance from China and the Soviet Union in their struggle against what they perceived as U.S. colonial interference in Southeast Asia, making this a key locus of Cold War.

Source:

Roberts, Ralph R. [United States Defense Policies in 1959](#), Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, Aug. 31, 1960, 86th Congress, 2nd Session. H.doc.432. ProQuest Serial, 12269 H.doc.432

Economic Trends and Conditions

By the first quarter of 1959, the recovery that had started early in 1958 had carried production and income to levels higher than ever before attained in the U.S. economy. A considerable further advance was achieved despite a strike in the steel industry that lasted for 116 days. In the fourth quarter of 1959, the nation's output of goods and services increased by 3.5 percent over the rate recorded for corresponding period of 1958. By December 1959 total employment had reached a record level. After adjustment for increased prices, the rise in total personal income in 1959 represented a gain of nearly five percent in real buying power.

As 1960 ended, the nation was producing goods and services at a rate that was slightly less than the rate recorded for the second quarter of the year. But for the year as a whole, the total output of the economy measured in standardized purchasing power increased 2.6 percent over 1959's economic output. Production and employment declined in the latter part of 1960, in part, because of an inventory adjustment. The final demand for goods and services measured as the sum of expenditures, except those resulting in inventory change, increased without interruption during 1960, reaching \$507.5 billion during the final quarter.

Sources:

Eisenhower, Dwight D. [Economic Report of the President Transmitted to the Congress](#), House, Jan. 20, 1960, 86th Congress 2nd, H.doc.268 (Pr34.10:960). ProQuest Congressional, 12300 H.doc.268

Eisenhower, Dwight D. [Economic Report of the President Transmitted to the Congress](#), House, Jan. 18, 1961, 87th Congress, 1st Session. H.doc.28 (Pr35.9:961). ProQuest Congressional, 12390 H.doc.28

Constitutional Amendments

Twenty-Third Amendment. Provided the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President by giving them three representatives in the Electoral College. Approved June 16, 1960. Ratified by the requisite number of States Mar. 29, 1961. ([75 Stat. 847](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Major Treaties

Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States of America and Japan. Committed the United States and Japan to come to each other's defense if either were attacked "in the territories under the administration of Japan." Also affirmed American rights to land, air, and

naval bases in Japan, but conditioned any major shifts in American forces or the use of these bases for combat operations on "prior consultation" with Japan. Concluded Jan. 19, 1960. Ratified by the Senate June 22, 1960. ([11 UST. 1632-1759](#))*

* *UST refers to the State Department's multivolume series which began in 1950 entitled: United States Treaties and Other International Agreements.*

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#), Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Bibb v. Navajo Freight Lines, Inc. holding unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause an Illinois law requiring trucks to have curved mud guards instead of mud flaps required by Federal regulation and State regulation in the other States, 359 U.S. 520 (1959)

Barenblatt v. U.S., holding that investigations into a professor's affiliations with the Communist Party were constitutional, stating that his First Amendment rights do not protect him from lines of questioning, 360 U.S. 109 (1959)

Steelworkers v. United States, upholding the constitutionality of the Taft Hartley Act emergency procedures and their applicability in forcing the striking steel workers back to work, 361 U.S. 39 (1959)

Huron Portland Cement Co. v. Detroit, holding that the implementation of the Smoke Abatement Code of Detroit is constitutional, even though the ships that are affected by the code are used in interstate commerce and are regulated by the U.S. Government, 362 U.S. 440 (1960)

Gomillion v. Lightfoot, holding unconstitutional under the Fifteenth Amendment an Alabama law changing the boundaries of the city of Tuskegee, Ala., in a manner that eliminated most African American voters without eliminating any white voters, 364 U.S. 339 (1960)

Boynton v. Virginia, holding that a Virginia statute making it a misdemeanor for a person to remain on the property of another person after being asked to leave could not be enforced against an African American remaining in a "whites-only" restaurant located in a bus terminal, on the grounds that racial segregation in public transportation violates the non-discrimination provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act, 364 U.S. 454 (1960)

Source:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America. Analysis and Interpretation](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1959 Events

- **Jan. 1:** [Fulgencio Batista resigns as Cuba's President—a position he held since 1952 when he seized control of the government—and flees to the Dominican Republic](#)
- **Jan. 3:** [Alaska is admitted to the Union as the 49th State](#)
- **Jan. 9:** [The U.S. formally recognizes the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro](#)
- **Feb. 6:** [A Titan intercontinental ballistic missile \(ICBM\) is successfully launched from Cape Canaveral and flies about 300 miles](#)
- **Mar. 28:** [Communist Chinese impose military rule in Tibet and abolishes the regime of the Dalai Lama](#)
- **Mar. 31:** [In response to threats from China, the Dalai Lama flees Tibet](#)
- **May 11:** [Berlin Crisis - Representatives of the U.S., Britain, France, and the USSR meet in Geneva, Switzerland and hold talks on East-West relations](#)
- **May 24:** [During a visit to Moscow, Vice President Richard Nixon debates Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on world issues](#)
- **May 28:** [Space Race - A U.S. Jupiter missile is launched with two monkeys on board—named Able and Baker—and they both survive the flight](#)
- **June 9:** [The first U.S. submarine designed to carry Polaris missiles—the USS George Washington—is launched at Groton, Conn.](#)
- **July 15:** [Steel Strike of 1959 - Members of the United Steelworkers of America walk off the job beginning the 116-day steel strike of 1959](#)
- **Aug. 21:** [Hawaii admitted to the Union as the 50th State](#)
- **Sept. 13:** [Space Race - The Soviet rocket Lunik II strikes the Moon after a flight of 35 hours](#)
- **Sept. 15-27:** [Soviet Premier Khrushchev makes an official visit to the U.S.](#)
- **Oct. 20:** [Steel Strike of 1959 - The Department of Justice petitions the Federal District Court of Western Pennsylvania for an injunction under the Taft Hartley Act to order striking steelworkers back to work](#)
- **Nov. 7:** [Steel Strike of 1959 - The Supreme Court upholds the appellate court's findings in Steelworkers v. U.S., 361 U.S. 39, affirming the district court's injunction and order workers back to work](#)
- **Dec. 1:** [A treaty designating Antarctica as a preserve for scientific research is signed by 12 nations](#)
- **Dec. 29:** [President Eisenhower announces that the U.S. is ending its voluntary ban on nuclear testing, but will not resume testing without advance notification](#)
- **Dec. 30:** Premier Khrushchev announces that the USSR will not resume nuclear testing unless the Western Powers do so first

1960 Events

- **Jan. 4:** *Steel Strike of 1959* - [An agreement is reached between steel companies and steel workers, thereby ending the strike](#)
- **Feb. 13:** France announces the detonation of a plutonium bomb, making France the world's fourth nuclear power
- **May 1:** [A U.S. high-altitude reconnaissance U-2 aircraft makes a forced landing near Sverdlovsk, USSR, and the pilot—Francis Gary Powers—is captured](#)
- **May 16:** [Premier Khrushchev withdraws an invitation for President Eisenhower to visit the USSR and calls off a summit meeting scheduled to take place later that month](#)
- **July 1:** [The USSR shoots down a reconnaissance RB-47 aircraft flying over the Barents Sea, taking two crew members alive](#)
- **July 6:** The Cuban Government passes a nationalization law, authorizing the nationalization through expropriation of Cuban property owned by U.S. interests
- **July 6:** [The U.S. reduces the sugar quota from Cuba based on that country's plan to pay for Soviet goods with sugar, which raises doubts Cuba will remain a dependable source of sugar](#)
- **Aug. 6:** Cuba nationalizes the property of 26 companies owned in whole or in part by U.S. citizens
- **Aug. 19:** [The Soviet government finds U.S. U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers guilty of espionage](#)
- **Sept. 24:** The US launches the *USS Enterprise*, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier
- **Oct. 24:** Cuba nationalizes 166 properties owned by U.S. citizens
- **Dec. 19:** Cuba and the USSR sign a joint communiqué in which Cuba formally aligns itself with the Sino-Soviet bloc

Sources:

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Carmichael, Leonard. [Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution](#). Smithsonian Institution; National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Dec. 31, 1959. 86th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.249 (SI1.1:959; SI3.1:959). ProQuest Congressional, 12291 H.doc.249

Committee on Armed Services. Senate. [Francis Gary Powers](#). GPO, Mar. 6, 1962. 87th Congress, 2nd Session, 87 S1470-14 (Y4.Ar5/3:P87). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1962-SAS-0002

Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate. [Events Incident to the Summit Conference](#). GPO, May 27, June 1-2, 1960. 86th Congress, 2nd Session, (Y4.F76/2:Su6). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1960-FOR-0011

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Consideration of Draft Resolution on Berlin; Report of Subcommittee on Office Space; Nominations](#). Jan. 20, 1959. 86th Congress, 1st Session, 86 SFO-T.2. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1959-FOR-0040

Dawson, William Levi. [*Availability of information from Federal Departments and agencies \(progress of study, August 1958-July 1959\)*](#). Committee on Government Operations. House, Sept. 3, 1959. 86th Congress, 1st Session, H.r.p.1137. ProQuest Congressional, 12168 H.r.p.1137

["Developments in Paris."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session (May 16, 1960) Vol. 106, pp. 10311-10314. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1960-0516

Eisenhower, Dwight David. [Letter to the Attorney General directing him to petition for an injunction in the steel strike](#). Public Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1983, Oct. 19, 1959. ProQuest Congressional, 1959-21-9

["How Can World Law Be Achieved?"](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 1st Session (May 12, 1959) Vol. 105, pp. 8018-8021. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1959-0512

["Investigatory Subagency U.N. Security Council."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session (Aug. 10, 1960) Vol. 106, p. 16077. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1960-0810

["Invite the Dalai Lama to the United States."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 1st Session (Apr. 15, 1959) Vol. 105, p. 6036. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1959-0415

["President's Proposal to Transfer Nuclear Weapons."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session (Feb. 9, 1960) Vol. 106, pp. 2361-2364. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1960-0209

Sheridan, Peter B. [Admission of States into the Union After the Original Thirteen: A Brief History and Analysis of the Statehood Process](#). Government Division (CRS), Apr. 2, 1985. 99th Congress, 1st Session, 85-765 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1985-GOV-0026

Special Subcommittee on Lunik Probe; Committee on Science and Astronautics. House. [Soviet Space Technology](#). GPO, May 11-14, 28-29, 1959. 86th Congress, 1st Session, Committee on Science and Astronautics Serial No. 46. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1959-SAH-0024

["The Steel Strike."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 1st Session (July 15, 1959) Vol. 105, pp. 13387-13390. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1959-0715

["The Steel Strike Settlement."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session (Jan. 18, 1960) Vol. 106, p. 608. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1960-0118

["The Success of the Castro Revolution and the Failure of Our State Department."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 1st Session (Jan. 15, 1959) Vol. 105, pp. 700-710. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1959-0115

["Sugar Legislation."](#) Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session (Aug. 25, 1960) Vol. 106, pp. 17653-17655. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1960-0825

["What Khrushchev Is Like."](#) Appendix to the Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 1st Session (Sept. 15, 1959) Vol. 105, pp. A8150-A8152. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1959-0915

Major Acts

Hawaii Statehood Act. Provided for the formal ratification of the State constitution adopted by the Hawaiians on Nov. 7, 1950. Created a public trust of public lands granted to the State for the purpose of supporting public schools or other public improvements. Gave the new State all the lands held by the United States at time of admission, but permitted Congress or the President, within a five-year period following admission, to set aside any former U.S. lands for the Federal Government. Entitled the new State to two Senators and one Representative until the 1960 census (after which the State

was divided into two congressional districts) and ordered the Hawaiians to vote in a referendum on whether they consented to becoming a State under the conditions specified in the act. Approved Mar. 18, 1959. ([73 Stat. 4; PL86-3](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Veterans' Pension Act of 1959. Provided for new pension eligibility requirements that would include veterans, widows and children of veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Approved Aug. 29, 1959. ([73 Stat. 432; PL86-211](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959. Provided a "Bill of Rights" for union members which included a guarantee that they would have "equal rights and privileges" to nominate candidates, vote for union officials, participate in union meetings and caucus with other members under "reasonable rules and regulations" established by the union. Required all union members to adopt constitutions and bylaws and to register them and other information outlining their financial and organizational structure, with the Secretary of Labor. Also required that any union exercising trusteeship over a union local file semi-annual reports with the Secretary of Labor detailing the conditions of the trusteeship and the financial condition of the local. Made it a crime not to file, to file falsely or to destroy union records or make such reports public information. Specified that local union elections be by secret ballot every three years, national elections every five years, and intermediate bodies every four years. Provided for a means of coping with union officials guilty of corruption in the use of union funds, Federal supervision of labor union elections, and several major modifications of the Taft-Harley Labor Relations Act of 1947. Approved Sept. 14, 1959. ([73 Stat. 519; PL86-257](#)) ([Regulatory History](#)) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in *United States v. Brown*, 381 U.S. 437 (1965).

Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959. Established a prepaid, voluntary health-insurance plan for more than two million Federal employees and their families, with costs to be shared equally by the Government and the employees. The Act—which enables Federal employees to enroll in one of several different health-insurance programs—was to be administered by the Civil Service Commission through a newly created Bureau of Retirement and Insurance. Approved Sept. 28, 1959. ([73 Stat. 708; PL86-382](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Civil Rights Act of 1960. Authorized Judges to appoint referees empowered to assist persons experiencing opposition in the exercise of the voting franchise. Also provided criminal penalties for bombing, bomb threats, and mob action designed to obstruct court orders. Approved May 6, 1960. ([74 Stat. 86; PL86-449](#))

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. Established a formal Government policy that the national forests should be administered under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield with the objective of developing five basic resources: outdoor recreation resources, range

resources, timber resources, watershed resources, and fish and wildlife resources. Approved June 12, 1960. ([74 Stat. 215; PL86-517](#))

International Development Associations Act. Approved United States' membership in the International Development Association and allocated \$320 million for IDA subscription to be paid over five years. Approved June 30, 1960. ([74 Stat. 293; PL86-565](#))

Social Security Amendments of 1960. Created the Medical Assistance to Aged Program under which the Federal Government would reimburse the States for 50-80 percent of their costs in providing medical care for "medically needy" persons 65 or over. It increased Federal matching grants to the States for medical care for the low-income elderly. Also amended the public assistance and maternal and child welfare provisions of the Social Security Act, and liberalized retirement earnings limitations for all beneficiaries. Approved Sept. 13, 1960. ([74 Stat. 924; PL86-778](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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