

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 70

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY LUCYK, TELEK, STUBAN, COLE, WARGO, McCALL, COY AND
BALDWIN, APRIL 18, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 19, 1983

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Soviet Union to withdraw criminal charges lodged
2 against Father Alfonsas Svarinskas.

3 WHEREAS, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, who began his priesthood
4 serving 16 years in a Soviet labor camp, is a Charter Member of
5 the Catholic Committee for the Defense for Believers' Rights;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, As pastor of Vidukle Church in the Diocese of
8 Vilkaviskis, his persistent challenges to the Soviet-assumed
9 authority over the Church have brought him unrelenting
10 harassment - fines, searches, formal warnings and attacks in the
11 Soviet press; and

12 WHEREAS, His effectiveness as a preacher and alleged
13 involvement with underground church activities made him the
14 target of Soviet inspired criminal proceedings in 1983; and

15 WHEREAS, He was arrested on January 26, 1983 in the Rayon of
16 Raseiniai, Lithuania for alleged anti-Soviet and anti-
17 constitutional activities; and

1 WHEREAS, At the time of arrest he was merely practicing his
2 guaranteed right to freedom of conscience; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Soviet
4 Union to comply with the Helsinki Agreement and to immediately
5 withdraw the criminal charges lodged against Father Svarinskas
6 so that he may return to his pastoral ministry; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the
9 Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Anatoliy F. Dobrynin.