

Motion Van Baalen cs on Comfort Women

(to be voted on in Parliament on Tuesday November 20th 2007;
positive recommendation by the NL Foreign Minister)

The Chamber, having heard the deliberations,

Considering that Japan is a strategic partner in Asia, with whom the Netherlands has maintained a relationship for 400 years, of which 150 years diplomatic relations in 2008, and with whom our country aims to shape a common future;

Being of the opinion that Japan, publicly and without any restraints, should take full responsibility for the system of forced sex slavery which it operated in the years before and during the Second World War and for the suffering that was inflicted upon the so-called Comfort Women, an issue on which no doubt can or may be thrown;

Recording that the Japanese government by means of the so-called Kono-declaration of 1993, has indeed acknowledged the fate of the Comfort Women, offered its apologies to the victims and accepted responsibility with this declaration, but also recording that the Japanese government and Japanese Members of Parliament have, on several occasions, distanced themselves from this declaration, as was shown by the later withdrawn remarks of the then-Prime minister Shinzo Abe last march and the advertisement of Members of the Japanese Lower Chamber in the Washington Post earlier this year on the same topic;

Taking note of the letter that the Chairman of the Japanese Lower Chamber sent on November 7th last, in reply to the letter written by the Chairperson of our Chamber of June 26th last regarding the advertisement in the Washington Post, and in which he distanced himself from the mentioned advertisement;

Considering that certain teaching material on Japanese schools does insufficient justice to the recognition of the Japanese war crimes, including the maltreatment of Comfort Women;

Considering that Japan, through the Asian Women's Fund, has offered former Comfort Women forms of compensation, partly financed through public means, but that this compensation was granted by a private non-government organisations;

Requests the government to demand with great force from the Japanese government to refrain from any declaration that will devalue the 1993 declaration of remorse and to take full responsibility for the involvement of the Japanese army in operating the system of coerced prostitution;

Requests the government to demand with great force from the Japanese government to make an additional gesture by offering the presently living Comfort Women a form of direct, moral and financial compensation for the inflicted suffering;

Requests the government to demand with great force from the Japanese government to promote that all the teaching material on Japanese schools give an accurate picture of the Japanese role in the Second World War, including the fate of the Comfort Women.

And proceeds to the order of the day.

Van Baalen (VVD) Wilders (PVV) Van der Staaij (SGP)

Van Gennip (CDA) Peters (GL) Thieme (PvdD)

Van Dam (PvdA) Voordewind (CU) Verdonk (independent)

Van Bommel (SP) Pechtold (D66)