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S. 596 (Case Bill)
Foreign Relations Committee

Provisions

Authorizes Congress (or, if classified, Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees) to get text of all international agreements, other than a treaty, to which U.S. is a party.

Issues

Political conflict between implied powers of President as sole organ responsible for conduct of foreign affairs, and availability of information to Congress for exercise of legislative functions.

Comments

The term "international agreement" is not defined.

Current law requires publication of all international agreements (1 USC 112(a), Article 102, UN Charter), but of course classified agreements are not reported for publication.

Status

Administration position is in the process of formulation for incorporation into a State report to Fulbright. There is disagreement between State on the one hand (which takes the position that practical arrangements short of legislation should be worked out to give copies or essence of most classified agreements, reserving the President's privilege to withhold sensitive agreements) and DOD (opposing the bill on constitutional grounds that Congress can't compel Executive to give up papers and information, regardless of public interest, and the President is the judge of that interest).

Fulbright has invited Secretary Rogers to testify on 21 October.