I have just reported to the President on the mission
he assigned me. We have returned from the inauguration
of the sixth President of the Republic of the Philippines.
Ferdinand E. Marcos. I also visited Japan, Taiwan
and Korea, where I had frank constructive and encouraging
talks with their leaders.

I reported to the President that the future in Asia is full of hope.

There are new leaders in Asia, intelligent, competent and realistic.

At the same time, we found everywhere a growing spirit of national independence, and perhaps more important, a growing understanding of the <a href="inter-dependence">inter-dependence</a> of the free nations of Asia, a new determination to find ways to plan and work together for regional economic development and for their mutual security.

We found in Japan a representative government that is ever stronger and an economic growth that is almost startling in its vitality.

In the Philippines, strong new leadership - determined to improve the lives of the Philippinos - is also taking a broad view of the world that can only bode well for all of Southeast Asia.

In Taiwan, the Republic of China has given other developing nations an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished by the wise and prudent use of technical and economic assistance.

And in Korea, I found a new spirit of confidence and optimism, determination, and competence. The alliance between our two countries has never been stronger.

There is a unamimity among the leaders of these four nations that the course President Johnson has been

pursuing in the search for an honorable and just settlement in Southeast Asia is both wise and needed.

I found friendship, understanding, courage -but most of all I found agreement with our objectives,
the aims of peace and of building a new quality of human
life.

The United States is interested in Asia -- not solely because we oppose the aggressive and brutal thrust of communism in that area -- but mainly because it is impossible to talk about the future of man on earth without giving full weight to the hopes and needs of the overwhelming majority of the world's peoples.

The essential question of our generation is, as

President Johnson has put it, how to make this planet safe
and fit for mankind.

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And finally, I told the President, I come home heartened by the warmth of affection in which the people in these countries hold the United States and the American people.

Mrs. Humphrey and I are glad to be home. There is work to be done and, as I told the President, we are ready to be about it.

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STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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