

(Jaynes) Mayor Albert Boutwell
President County Council, Cooper Green

REMARKS (League of Municipalities)

Henry Johnston
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

in white

BIRMINGHAM AREA RED CROSS

2 States (Alabama & Mississippi)

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

59 Counties

March 22, 1967

(X) Huntsville
(X) Key

Mezzain

I am honored to join in recognizing the people and organizations of central and northern Alabama and northern Mississippi who have done so much for their country through the Birmingham Regional Red Cross Blood Program.

Your area contributed more blood for our armed forces in 1965 and 1966 than any other area in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Your young people -- and particularly your college students -- have performed superbly.

For example, the students at Auburn University set an all-time ^{world} record for blood donations in a single campaign. - U of Mississippi

Men and women of all races and creeds have given their blood in a shared expression of love for their country and of respect for the young men who are risking and giving their lives for all of us in Vietnam.

No one ordered you to give your blood. No one compelled you. You volunteered.

In fact, I understand this program itself was begun spontaneously by students and civic organizations who wanted to demonstrate their support for our ~~men~~ in Vietnam.

The volunteer spirit is one of the enduring strengths of the American character.

When we see something that needs to be done, we do not stand around waiting for someone else.

↳ We step forward.

That is the spirit in which some thirty of our finest American voluntary organizations are at work in Vietnam today -- and (I must say with regret) it is work that seldom gets in our newspapers or on our television screens.

↳ These are religious organizations, professional associations, and other groups with wide experience in service to others.

↳ They include, for example, the young men and women of the International Voluntary Services, at work way out in the countryside, where the needs -- and the dangers -- are greatest.

↳ They include, too, your American Red Cross, backed up by its forty million members.

↳ In addition to its traditional services to our armed forces, the Red Cross is helping the Vietnamese

people to help themselves.

↳ A team of American and Vietnamese Red Cross staff members is today operating ten refugee camps, with ten thousand people in them. They are providing shelter, food, clothing and medical care.

↳ But they are doing much more than that.

↳ They are organizing self-help projects to build permanent dwelling places, community buildings, and sanitation facilities. ↳ With cloth, thread and sewing machines provided by the Red Cross, the refugee women are busy making clothes for their families.

↳ Above all, this Red Cross team is giving the refugees training for useful and needed occupations, so that they can stand on their own feet and earn their own livings.

↳ The Red Cross is engaged in many compassionate missions in Vietnam, but I am particularly proud of

what it is doing for the children -- the real hope for a better future.

↳ The necessities and the comforts the Red Cross has provided them range all the way from toys -- the first toy many of them have ever had -- to the clothing that they wear to school -- the first school many of them have ever attended.

↳ The Red Cross and other voluntary organizations in Vietnam could not, of course, carry out their work without the support they have received from many people here in the United States.

↳ Here in Birmingham, for example, I know your Jaycees financed, through CARE, the inoculation against contagious diseases of six thousand children in orphanages in and around Saigon.

↳ All this is a part of what I call the "other war" in Vietnam -- the war against poverty, illiteracy, and

sickness . . . the war for justice, freedom, and opportunity.

and, It is just as important that we win this war as it is that we win the military struggle.

↳ For the Vietnamese people need housing, schools, *Educ* and medical care.

↳ It is these shortcomings that the Communists have exploited. And it is these shortcomings we must help overcome if the people of South Vietnam are to finally be protected from subversion, terror and aggression.

↳ Every American in Vietnam -- whether in uniform or in shirtsleeves -- volunteered for the duration in this "other war."

(Sgt Major William Woodridge^(B.I.))

↳ You in Birmingham have good reason to know that. In adopting the First Infantry Division (the "Big Red One") you have also adopted hundreds of Vietnamese grandchildren --

*Send
Lamar*

the youngsters in Vietnamese orphanages the Division is looking after.

↳ We are making progress in the "other war," just as we are in the military war. And the American

people need to know it. Agrie, COOPs, Land Reform, Class
REA Rooms, books, Teacher

↳ Today, on this occasion, I want to stress particularly the progress we are making in health service and medical care.

↳ Even without the impact of the war, the health needs would be desperate in Vietnam.

↳ Diseases all but unknown here are common, often epidemic, in Vietnam. ↳ Sanitation is poor or non-existent. There is an appalling lack of medical and hospital facilities.

↳ The war has made it all worse.

Over seven hundred Vietnamese doctors are serving in the armed forces, leaving fewer than two hundred civilian doctors for sixteen million people -- fewer than two hundred doctors for sixteen million people. !!

The Communists have destroyed large numbers of village and district health centers, and have kidnaped and killed the doctors and nurses.

Americans in uniform and out-of-uniform are working side-by-side with the villagers to rebuild these health centers and to build new ones. } Example given by Ky.

and More than twelve hundred free-world medical specialists are at work in Vietnam, organized into teams in nearly all its provinces.

They include not only American military and Public Health Service personnel, but teams from Korea,

Taiwan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Great Britain, Australia, Spain, Iran, and Switzerland.

↳ These ^{medical} teams are treating over one hundred thousand patients a month.

↳ Operating rooms at provincial hospitals are now serviced for the first time on a twenty-four hour basis.

Why? ↳ Because of the arrival of more than two hundred American doctors on temporary duty. Under a program sponsored by the American Medical Association, they are serving sixty-day tours of duty without pay and under difficult and hazardous conditions.

↳ With the help of Dr. Howard Rusk, a world-renowned specialist, the Vietnamese National Rehabilitation Center is now fitting artificial arms and legs at the rate of five hundred per month.

↳ Priority is given to war casualties -- many of them victims of Viet Cong terror.

↳ Amputees, once they are mobile, are returned to their homes by plane. ↳ Americans who volunteer their services go along with them to help them get a fresh start.

↳ Serious pediatric cases are flown to Children's Hospital in Saigon for treatment by a team of specialists from England. (Incidentally, I might add that medical aid for the people of Vietnam is coming from twenty-one nations in all, apart from the United States.)

↳ Besides all this, of course, the medical units attached directly to American forces in Vietnam give first aid and preliminary treatment to thousands of Vietnamese civilians as part of their everyday duties.

↳ No army in history has done so much to bring health and compassion to the innocent people who are harmed by war.

Yes, solid foundations are being laid for the future health and well-being of the Vietnamese people -- even in the midst of war and in the face of Communist terror.

And, to those who scoff at these efforts, may I point out that we and our allies will save more civilian lives in Vietnam this year, by many times, than will be lost in the war.

But the most essential foundation of all for South Vietnam's future is the development of democratic practices and institutions -- practices and institutions to provide the Vietnamese people the means to determine their own futures.

This -- the right of self-determination -- is what the struggle is all about.

For -- to use a medical analogy -- the most effective prescription against communism is a healthy measure of freedom ~~democracy~~.

↳ Communists are allergic to free elections.

They have yet to win a free national election anywhere in the world. And I don't believe they ever will.

↳ They did everything they could to disrupt the election of the South Vietnamese Constituent Assembly last year.

↳ But, despite threats, kidnapings, and bombing of polling places, over eighty percent of the eligible voters voted. I wish we could do as well here in the United States.

↳ The Constituent Assembly has been hard at work drafting a democratic constitution for Vietnam.

It was approved a few days ago by that Assembly. The debates were vigorous and a wide variety of opinions were heard. They didn't draw any headlines, but these free debates were more important -- and far more representative of Vietnamese opinion -- than the manufactured marches and demonstrations which seemed so worthy of attention only a few months ago. (And isn't it interesting that, while the constitutional processes have gone forward, the old agitators haven't been able to raise a respectable-sized crowds?)

↳ Free national elections, in accordance with its provisions, will be held later this year.

↳ Meanwhile there will be village and hamlet elections, beginning next month. Everybody -- and I mean everybody over 21 -- will have a chance to vote.

*Discuss
constitution*

And I challenge anyone who persists in proposing -- only a few days before these elections -- that we should force a place in the present government for the same Viet Cong who seek the destruction of the democratic processes.

↳ If there is any lesson to be learned from the past fifty years, it is this: Big nations cannot buy their own safety by breaking their word and sacrificing small nations.

↳ Presidents Truman and Eisenhower did not sacrifice Western Europe. They did not sacrifice Greece and Turkey and Iran. They did not sacrifice Berlin. They did not sacrifice South Korea.

↳ President John F. Kennedy did not back down to nuclear blackmail in Cuba and sacrifice the integrity of this Hemisphere.

↳ And President Lyndon Johnson is not going to sacrifice the nation of South Vietnam *for a "Ho Chi Minh"*

↳ Stop the bombing in the North? — *Ho Letter!*

*Not Pause
But Stop!*

Yes, we will stop the bombing -- at the very instant that there is one indication of good faith toward negotiation by the people in Hanoi.

↳ We have stopped the bombing before. And every time Hanoi has responded by pouring massive quantities of men and material unimpeded into the South.

President's Letter Dispatched to Ho

Here is the text of President Johnson's Feb. 2 message to North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh as delivered in Moscow Feb. 8 and as released yesterday by U.S. officials:

His Excellency
Ho Chi Minh
President
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you in the hope that the conflict in Vietnam can be brought to an end. That conflict has already taken a heavy toll—in lives lost, in wounds inflicted, in property destroyed, and in simple human misery. If we fail to find a just and peaceful solution, history will judge us harshly.

Therefore, I believe that we both have a heavy obligation to seek earnestly the path to peace. It is in response to that obligation that I am writing directly to you.

We have tried over the past several years, in a variety of ways and through a number of channels, to convey to you and your colleagues our desire to achieve a peaceful settlement. For whatever reasons, these efforts have not achieved any results.

Possible Distortions

It may be that our thoughts and yours, our attitudes and yours, have been distorted or misinterpreted as they passed through these various channels. Certainly that is always a danger in indirect communication.

There is one good way to overcome this problem and to move forward in the search for peaceful settlement.

That is for us to arrange for direct talks between trusted representatives in a secure setting and away from the glare of publicity. Such talks such not be used as a propaganda exercise but should be a serious effort to find a workable and mutually acceptable solution.

Two Great Difficulties

In the past two weeks, I have noted public statements by representatives of your government suggesting that you would be prepared to enter into direct bilateral talks with representatives of the U.S. Government, provided that we ceased "unconditionally" and permanently our bombing operations against your country and all military actions against it. In the last day, serious and responsible parties have assured us indirectly that this is in fact your proposal.

Let me frankly state that I see two great difficulties with this proposal. In view of your public position, such action on our part would inevitably produce worldwide speculation that discussions were under way and would impair the privacy and secrecy of those discussions. Secondly, there would inevitably be grave concern on our part whether your government would make use of such action by us to improve its military position.

With these problems in mind, I am prepared to move even further towards an ending of hostilities than your government has proposed in either public statements or through private diplomatic channels. I am prepared to order

a cessation of bombing against your country and the stopping of further augmentation of U.S. forces in South Vietnam as soon as I am assured that infiltration into South Vietnam by land and by sea has stopped. These acts of restraint on both sides would, I believe, make it possible for us to conduct serious and private discussions leading toward an early peace.

I make this proposal to you now with a specific sense of urgency arising from the imminent New Year holidays in Vietnam. If you are able to accept this proposal I see no reason why it could not take effect at the end of the New Year, or Tet, holidays. The proposal I have made would be greatly strengthened if your military authorities and those of the Government of South Vietnam could promptly negotiate an extension of the Tet truce.

Meeting in Moscow?

As to the site of the bilateral discussions I propose, there are several possibilities. We could, for example, have our representatives meet in Moscow where contacts have already occurred. They could meet in some other country such as Burma. You may have other arrangements or sites in mind, and I would try to meet your suggestions.

The important thing is to end a conflict that has brought burdens to both our peoples, and above all to the people of South Vietnam. If you have any thoughts about the actions I propose, it would be most important that I receive them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Lyndon B. Johnson.

Ho's Reply to Letter From President

TOKYO, March 21 (AP)—The text of a message President Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam sent to President Johnson Feb. 15 in reply to one from Mr. Johnson, as broadcast by the official Vietnam news agency:

To His Excellency Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson,
President,
United States of America,
Your Excellency:

On Feb. 10, 1967, I received your message. This is my reply.

Vietnam is thousands of miles away from the United States. The Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States. But contrary to the pledges made by its representative at the 1954 Geneva conference, the U.S. Government has ceaselessly intervened in Vietnam, it has unleashed and intensified the war of aggression in South Vietnam with a view to prolonging the partition of Vietnam and turning South Vietnam into a neo-colony and a military base of the United States. For over two years now, the U.S. Government has, with its air and naval forces, carried the war to the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam, an independent and sovereign country.

Most Barbarous Methods

The U.S. Government has committed war crimes, crimes against peace and against mankind. In South Vietnam, half a million U.S. and satellite troops have resorted to the most inhuman weapons and the most barbarous methods of warfare, such as napalm, toxic

chemicals and gases, to massacre our compatriots, destroy crops, and raze villages to the ground. In North Vietnam, thousands of U.S. aircraft have dropped hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs, destroying towns, villages, factories, schools. In your message, you apparently deplored the sufferings and destruction in Vietnam. May I ask you: Who has perpetrated these monstrous crimes? It is the United States and satellite troops. The U.S. Government is entirely responsible for the extremely serious situation in Vietnam.

The U.S. war of aggression against the Vietnamese people constitutes a challenge to the countries of the socialist camp, a threat to the national independence movement, and a serious danger to peace in Asia and the world.

Love Their Independence

The Vietnamese people deeply love independence, freedom and peace. But in the face of the U.S. aggression, they have risen up, united as one man, fearless of sacrifices and hardships. They are determined to carry on their resistance until they have won genuine independence and freedom and true peace. Our just cause enjoys strong sympathy and support from the peoples of the whole world, including broad sections of the American people.

The U.S. Government has unleashed the war of aggression in Vietnam. It must cease this aggression. That is the only way to the restoration of peace. The U.S. Government must stop definitively and unconditionally its bombing

raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. Such is the basis (sic) content of the five-point stand of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which embodies the essential principles and provisions of the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam, it is the basic (sic) of a correct political solution to the Vietnam problem.

One Way to Direct Talks

In your message, you suggested direct talks between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States. If the U.S. Government really wants these talks, it must first of all stop unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It is only after the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States could enter into talks and discuss questions concerning the two sides.

The Vietnamese people will never submit to force, they will never accept talks under the threat of bombs.

Our cause is absolutely just. It is to be hoped that the U.S. Government will act in accordance with reason.

Sincerely,
Ho Chi Minh

Pope's letter Feb 13

Now Hanoi says: Stop the bombing,
unconditionally -- once and for all -- and maybe we
can work something out.

And we reply: Please, give us one indication
of good faith. Show us, by your actions, or through
a firm proposal, public or private, that you are ready
to reciprocate . . . that you are ready to enter the path
of honest negotiation. We are ready. !

↳ But thus far there is no such indication.

We cannot -- we must not -- jeopardize the lives
of our sons and brothers, and the sons and brothers
of our allies, by lifting the only direct military pressure
being placed against the North.

↳ At the same time -- and you must know this --
we will not heed those voices which urge us to apply
the full measure of our power . . . to destroy North
Vietnamese ports, her people, her cities -- her life
and heart. *We seek peace, not destruction*

Let me put it in plain words:

To do so would be to run the risk of nuclear

war. *and the end of the Northern Hemisphere.*

What now? What further disciplines must we demand of ourselves?

When the French withdrew from Indo-China, Ho Chi Minh was asked whether he had won the war at Dienbienphu.

"No," he said, "we won the war in Paris."

Today Ho Chi Minh knows he cannot win in Vietnam. But he still hopes to win it in Washington . . . in Minneapolis . . . in Austin and Augusta . . . in Boston and Birmingham.

↳ His last, and only, hope is that the American people will tire of this war . . . that our America will become a house divided against itself . . . and that we will withdraw.

Your President has spent these past few days in the Pacific, accompanied by his advisors, to chart the course in Vietnam in the weeks and months ahead.

been with him this morning

↳ But only the American people can finally chart that course.

↳ Will they have the patience, the courage, and the maturity, to see this struggle through?

↳ Will they have the staying power to last it out in the days ahead?

Ho Chi Minh says no. Mao Tse Tung says no.

↳ But I believe the American people can, and will, say yes.

Now, more than ever, the words of Woodrow

Wilson have special meaning:

"The thing I count upon . . . is the unity of America -- an America united in feeling, in purpose, and in its vision of duty, of opportunity, and of service."

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ONE Nation, Under God, indivisible with liberty & Justice for All!



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