

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
HEARST AWARDS -- May 10, 1966

Thank you very much, President (indistinct), for your kind words and for the presentation of your resolution. I am very honored to be able to receive you, sir, and all of your delegates of the World Veterans' Federation and to receive your resolution on behalf of the President of the United States, President Johnson. You are so welcome here in our nation's Capitol. We are highly honored by your presence and we trust that your visit to the United States will be a happy one and a memorable one.

As I said, I am pleased to receive this resolution. It represents the judgment of 20 million veterans in organizations affiliated with the World Veterans' Federation in 49 countries. I can assure each and every one of you and your fellow veterans that the United States Government does wholeheartedly and unreservedly support the convening of a conference to bring peace

with freedom in Viet Nam. We support the purpose of your resolution.

Peace with freedom has always been the sound goal of the World Veterans' Federation. I note that you have underlined the words " peace with freedom. "

That is the only peace that is real peace; and we seek living peace with living freedom for all people. Having been to Viet Nam, I know that the people of that war-stricken land do want peace. But they do not want peace at the price of domination, of slavery, or of being ruled by other forces -- outside and alien forces.

Your resolution soundly regrets the failure of numerous attempts made to put an end to the conflict. We share with you that regret. I would only add that it is the Free World which has been making these attempts for an honorable peace, for negotiations that can lead to peace. The other side as yet has not responded in the affirmative. It has rejected these offers of seeking peace.

You can be sure that your resolution, Mr. President, is welcome and that it will receive

the earnest consideration of our government. I am so very, very pleased that you have taken the time to come here to present this resolution and to come to our shores. In the credo of the Veterans' Federation, the distinguished diplomat, Ralph Bunche wrote: " Nobody" and he wrote it so well, that "Nobody can better speak for peace than those who have fought in war. " Everyone of you here is a Veteran in the Armed Services of your country. You have served with honor and many of you with supreme gallantry. Many carry the scars of battle and the brutality of war. You know the meaning of war. You also know the meaning of freedom, and independence, and sovereignty.

You know how important peace is, especially in this, the nuclear age. You know how dangerous any war is at this time in human history. Therefore, we welcome you as servants of peace. We welcome you as diplomats of peace. I say to you with all the sincerity in my heart, that the

United States of America is prepared for peace. We seek to find a way. We will go any place, anywhere, at any time, to meet with anybody to find an honorable peace in Viet Nam. This is our commitment to you and to our own people.

I will see that this resolution is presented to the President of the United States.

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