

OPENING STATEMENT

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

OCTOBER 21, 1966

President Johnson has flown across the Pacific to participate in an historic conference suggested by Asian leaders and convened by President Marcos of the Philippines.

The leaders of seven nations have been brought together by their common concern over a vital issue -- the effort of South Viet Nam, while meeting ~~externally - directed~~ *the forces of* aggression, to determine its own future and to develop itself as a modern, independent nation state.

These Pacific leaders have ~~at~~ committed their own resources to helping the South Vietnamese people find a solution to a problem they might earlier have faced alone.

Certainly the Manila Conference reflects a change of attitude among Pacific and Asian nations dramatic in its proportions and in its significance for the future.

Asian states which but a few years ago knew virtually nothing of each other and cared almost equally little ...

Asian states, which for centuries had depended on, or which had been required to depend on others for their security and their political and economic direction, now have a sense of mutual interest and inter-dependence, and are helping one another and shaping a new regionalism.

We cannot predict what will come of the Manila Conference.

The conference will review military operations, but its main emphasis will be on the civil, constructive side -- on South Viet Nam's effort, with outside help, to build a nation in the face of aggression.

*Pacification
rural development
Post War aims
Search for Peace*

It will also explore the prospects for honorable peace.

We cannot expect miracles or instant solutions.

As the President said at Honolulu, we do not expect to pull any rabbits out of a hat.

But we do hope that, when the Manila Conference has ended, the cooperation among Asian and Pacific powers -- including the United States -- will be even closer than before, and that the cause of peace will have been served.

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