

For Norma Sherman

[Transcript]

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THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

SPEAKS TO

U. S. ARMY TRIPLER GENERAL HOSPITAL

7 August 1967

*Honolulu, Hawaii*

Well, thank you very much, Specialist Brown and ~~d~~....Gen Steger and our CofS of CINCPAC, Gen Hutchin, COL Nelson and all the other officers and men that I have met today and indeed...the wonderful nurses and technicians that have greeted me as I've gone along these wards. I want ~~g~~~~b~~~~v~~ to give you a very special greeting and a word of greeting from the President of the United States who knows that I'm here visiting in the hospital who knows that I'm here at Tripler out in Honolulu visiting some of our military installations and talking with those men and...the officers and men who are in charge of our operations in Vietnam. President Johnson would want me to wish you the very best and to extend ~~y~~~~d~~ to you his heartiest greetings and congratulations and ~~t~~ to all ~~y~~ of you men and women our thanks from the President and Vice-President and the American people for your splendid and devoted service to our country. Nineteen months ago I think it was <sup>either</sup> 19 or 20 I was in Vietnam. That was my third trip to the Far East ~~and~~ in that year and I had an opportunity to see at first hand what was developing in Vietnam and how our forces and the forces of our allies were operating in that all-important area of the world. I came back from that journey and reported to the President of the United States and the Congress to the effect that I felt

That we were making considerable progress, that the tide of the battle had turned in favor of the allies, but I also said that we would have to be patient, that our task was not easy, that this would take time, that there ~~was~~ were no instant ways or quick ways of winning the war or of gaining the objective <sup>of</sup> providing for the security and freedom of South Vietnam. I believe that what I said 19 months ago has proven out not because of any unusual observation powers of mine, but because of the nature of that struggle. What I want to say to you is that the American people despite what you may read or hear, ~~understand~~ understand the importance of this struggle; in fact, the American people are not asking your Government to do less, but if anything, to do more. <sup>↓</sup> The American people support the men who are in Vietnam. They're very proud of their men. In fact, we <sup>all</sup> know that we have never put a better force into battle, than the men <sup>the</sup> and <sup>in</sup> women who serve <sup>in</sup> the Armed Forces today in Southeast Asia. So be assured of one thing--that the quiet steady support of the American people is there. There are always those who express a noisy dissent and of course in our society <sup>in</sup> a free democratic country that right of being different, that right of expressing a different point of view, is a very precious right and we have no intention of curbing it, in any way, but you must know that your service is honored, and you should know that the overwhelming preponderant majority of the American people are proud of you, proud of every man and every woman, proud of every person that serves this country in the ~~the~~ Armed Forces of the United States. I want to make just one or two other observations. The medical care which you are receiving <sup>here</sup> at Tripler Army Medical Center is of the finest, I'm sure you know that.

Your country, your government,... wants to make sure that those who are the victims of battle, those who have served in our Armed Forces, receive the best of medical care. There is no finer medicine in the world than the medicine in the United States of America. And everything that our medical profession knows is being brought to bear in the Armed Services <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ the medical treatment centers, the hospitals, and the outpatient <sup>clinics</sup> ~~centers~~ of our military establishment. So you will receive the best and I'm sure that you know that you are. I want to commend Gen Steger and...all of his staff for the outstanding job ~~that you're~~ <sup>great</sup> they are doing here in this hospital. What I have to say to you I can repeat to other hospitals throughout the world where our forces are being cared for. Now my final word to you is this: and I say this in particular to the young men that I've met today and others that others that I will be <sup>meeting</sup> ~~speaking to~~ along the way ... have great faith in your country. We're going through some difficult times in the world now....we're in a great period of change. Whenever you go thru a period of change there's always trouble and noise and turbulence. I've said many times that what's happening in the world is pretty much ~~a~~ like what ~~is~~ <sup>s</sup> happening when you're flying in an airplane and you come out of one weather system into another and you know when you hit that bad weather when the what they call the high pressure hits the low pressure area you have some turbulence, and once in a while you have a lot of trouble. So this is what's happening in our country. There are some troubles. We've seen some of it recently in some of our big cities. But once again I ~~will~~ want you to know that having gone to these cities--I've been <sup>in</sup> ~~there~~, that people in the U. S. of all/creeds, and nationalities,

are good citizens. Oh, we have a few bad apples, but.. that's not particularly unique for the United States. That is true of <sup>practically</sup> every country, indeed every country. But your country represents the ~~hope~~ hope of the world. It represents the only hope that some people have. And we can't afford to let anybody down, and we don't intend to. Now having said that <sup>that</sup> ~~said~~ doesn't mean that we are the ~~pl~~ policemen of the world. But it does mean that we are partners with men and women who want freedom. And we've learned the hard way that you either stand together or <sup>you will</sup> be torn apart. I guess it was <sup>old</sup> Benjamin Franklin who put it "you either hang together or you hang separately." And that's a lesson that we've learned since 1776. So we're going to stick together with our allies <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ our friends and with those who love freedom and when it's all through we'll be the stronger and the better. I hadn't intended to get into <sup>quite</sup> this much talk with you, but I've had a very moving experience once again today to be at this hospital and I want the parents of these men that I've visited to know that the President of the United States and those <sup>of us</sup> who are associated with the President/~~is~~ <sup>who is</sup> our Commander in Chief that every day of our lives we pray for peace. We long for it, we work for it but I believe it should be said that peace does not come by just wishing. It comes <sup>by</sup> through working, it comes through sacrifice. Sometimes it comes through pain and even death. So we're going to keep up our efforts, we're going to dedicate our energies and resources to the building of a peaceful world., and everyone <sup>of you</sup> in this hospital has helped ~~to~~ do that. You ought to feel a very personal involvement. You have helped build



the Cathedral of Peace, and it takes time, block by block, stone by  
stone, year by year <sup>but</sup> and mark my words, the world is a better world  
because of America. Abraham Lincoln was really right when he said,  
"We will either meanly lose or <sup>nobly</sup> ~~meanly~~ save the last best hope on earth."  
That's what he was talking about--he was talking about America. And  
either  
that's what it is. We will/meanly lose it--I don't think we'll do  
and  
that or nobly save it,/I think we'll do that. Thank you.



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