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FOR RELEASE:
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STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Americans have made it abundantly clear that they want to end the war in Vietnam. I have supported the policy of troop withdrawals and disengagement from South Vietnam. I cannot and do not support any escalation or expansion of the war.

The order to clean out enemy forces in Cambodia does expand the war. It violates our long-established policy of respecting Cambodian neutrality. It is strictly a military decision that carries with it serious risks with uncertain results. It will make more difficult any settlement through diplomatic negotiations.

The lesson of Vietnam is that expanded military action breeds increased military counteraction. Operations such as ordered by the President are rarely self-contained or quickly achieved. We now face the unhappy prospect of an expansion of the war in Southeast Asia and the rise in tension, protest and violence at home. This is a sad day for America.

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