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*file*

*Alton  
Statement*

April 26, 1972

*Commitment*

WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TODAY IS MOTIVATED BY MY ~~CONCERN~~ FOR

PEACE.

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO RESUME THE PARIS PEACE TALKS

*is one I have been urging*  
WHICH HE ORIGINALLY BROKE OFF, ~~IS A WISE ONE.~~ I WELCOME

THIS MOVE NOW AND HIS DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH OUR TROOP

WITHDRAWAL PLANS.

*I am however, disappointed that  
the rate of withdrawal has been reduced and that the  
so increased number of other forces are in SEA.*

BUT THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE TO CONTINUE INTENSIVE

BOMBING FOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL PURPOSES, PURPOSES

UNRELATED TO THE SAFETY OF OUR TROOPS, IS NOT THE WAY TO

MAKE KNOWN OUR COMMITMENT TO END AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT.

IT IS CLEAR NOW AND CLEARER EVERY DAY THAT THE UNITED

STATES MUST MAKE KNOWN THAT ITS MILITARY COMMITMENT TO

SOUTH VIETNAM IS COMING TO AN END.

THE FEWER TROOPS WE HAVE IN VIETNAM, THE MORE ESSENTIAL  
IT IS THAT THIS POINT BE MADE BECAUSE DANGER FOR THEIR OWN  
SECURITY IS THAT MUCH GREATER, AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANY  
TROOPS SHOULD BE LEFT IN VIETNAM AFTER JULY 1.

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION FAILS TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT WE  
SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR EXPERIENCE SINCE 1965. IT ALSO  
IGNORES THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN ADVISORS THAT A CONTINUATION  
OF THE BOMBING SERVES LITTLE MILITARY PURPOSE AND WILL NOT  
INDUCE THE OTHER SIDE TO BE ANY MORE FLEXIBLE IN ITS NEGOTIATING  
POSTURE.

*These are the bitter and costly lessons  
from the past*

IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT ACCEPTED  
THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO USE THE GOOD  
OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO FACILITATE COMING TO A

CEASE-FIRE IN VIETNAM. WE SHOULD USE THE U.N. AND ANY OTHER  
CONCEIVABLE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A  
CEASE FIRE.

~~IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO GAIN FROM THIS LONG TRIAL,  
IF IT IS TO REMAIN A GREAT POWER, IT MUST SEIZE ON A COMPRE-  
HENSIVE VISION OF WHAT GREATNESS REALLY IS FOR ANY SINGLE  
NATION OR GROUP OF NATIONS. IT IS STEADFASTNESS, A SENSE OF  
COMMITMENT AND PURPOSE, AND IT IS ALSO A RECOGNITION OF THE  
DEMANDS OF HUMANITY AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF WORLD STABILITY.~~

*brung about by*  
AN END TO THE VIETNAM WAR ~~INDUCED THROUGH~~ AMERICAN  
*the best evidence*  
DIPLOMACY WOULD BE AN ~~INDICATION~~ OF JUST HOW GREAT A *country* ~~POWER~~  
WE REALLY ARE.

*File  
Aron  
Student*

~~Secret~~ *committed to keep peace,*

WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TODAY IS MOTIVATED BY MY ~~CONVINCION~~ FOR PEACE.

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO RESUME THE PARIS PEACE TALKS WHICH HE ORIGINALLY

BROKE OFF, *is one I have been urging* I WELCOME THIS MOVE NOW AND HIS DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH OUR TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLAN. *I am disappointed that the rate of withdrawal has been reduced* BUT THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE TO CONTINUE INTENSIVE BOMBING FOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL PURPOSES, PURPOSES UNRELATED TO OUR TROOPS, IS NOT THE WAY TO MAKE KNOWN OUR COMMITMENT TO AN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT *the safety of the release of our POWs - and to secure*

IT IS CLEAR NOW AND CLEAR EVERYDAY THAT THE U.S. MUST MAKE KNOWN THAT ITS MILITARY COMMITMENT TO SOUTH VIETNAM IS COMING TO AN END. *not only the withdrawal of ground forces, but of all forces.*

*the withdrawal of ground forces, but of all forces.* THE POINT BE MADE BECAUSE DANGER FOR THEIR SECURITY IS THAT MUCH GREATER AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANY FORCES SHOULD BE LEFT IN VIET NAM AS ~~JOY~~

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION FAILS TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR EXPERIENCE SINCE 1965. IT ALSO IGNORES THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN ADVISORS THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE BOMBING SERVES LITTLE MILITARY PURPOSE AND WILL NOT INDUCE THE OTHER SIDE TO BE ANY MORE FLEXIBLE IN ITS NEGOTIATING POSTURE. *There are further and costly lessons of the past.*

IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO USE THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE FACILITATE COMING TO A CEASE FIRE IN VIET NAM. WE SHOULD USE THE U.N. AND ~~EVERYONE~~ CONVEIVABLE DIPLOMATIC INITIATE TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A CEASE FIRE.

IF THE U.S. IS TO GAIN FROM THIS LONG TRIAL, IF IT IS TO REMAIN A ~~POWER~~, IT MUST SEIZE ON A COMPREHENSIVE VISION FROM WHAT GREATNESS REALLY IS FOR ANY SINGLE NATION OR GROUP OF NATION IT IS STEADFASTNESS, A SENSE OF COMMITMENT AND PURPOSE, AND IT IS ALSO A RECOGNITION OF THE DEMANDS OF HUMANITY AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF WORK STABILITY.

AN END TO THE VIET NAM WAR INDUCED THROUGH AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WOULD BE AN INDICATION OF JUST HOW GREAT A ~~COUNTRY~~ WE REALLY ARE.

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Henry Kates  
Abbe Hoffman  
Renee Davis



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