

MEMORANDUM

*April 27
1972*

TO: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: VIETNAM STATEMENT

ATTACHED IS A STATEMENT PREPARED BY MAX, BILL AND RICK.

One additional item that I have checked upon: While Nixon has announced further ground troop withdrawals numbering 20,000, he has increased the number of air men in Thailand and seamen stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin. Below is a fact sheet which you might want to refer to in your Q & A session.

TABLE ON TROOP STRENGTH INCREASE FOR AIR COMBAT

December

Easter/present

29,000 airmen in Thailand

35,000 in Thailand

29,000 airmen in South Vietnam

20,000 airmen in S. Vietnam

10,000 seamen in Gulf of Tonkin

38,000 seamen in Gulf of
Tonkin

Aircraft Carriers

1-2 on station

4 on station

3-5

6-7 in the theatre

There are 3,000-5,000 men on each aircraft carrier.

The point to make and hit at is the artificial distinction between ground personnel in Vietnam and other military personnel committed to the Indochinese theatre.

One other point: The President's address failed to indicate when an end to American involvement in the war will really come.

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

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO RESUME THE PARIS PEACE TALKS
WHICH HE ORIGINALLY BROKE OFF, IS A WISE ONE. I WELCOME
THIS MOVE NOW AND HIS DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH OUR TROOP
WITHDRAWAL PLANS.

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.

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
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.

AN END TO THE VIETNAM WAR INDUCED THROUGH AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WOULD BE AN INDICATION OF JUST HOW GREAT A POWER WE REALLY ARE.



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