This press release is from the collections at the Robert J. Dole Archive and Special Collections, University of Kansas. Please contact us with any questions or comments: http://dolearchive.ku.edu/ask

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE 109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FOR RELEASE AM'S, TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1968

WASHINGTON, D.C.__July 23-- Congressman Bob Dole today said the "immediate results" of President Johnson's meeting with South Vietnam's President Thieu "make it apparent that the Vietnam war will continue as before".

In a statement in the House late yesterday, Dole said, "The Honolulu meeting accomplished little, except to enable Thieu to return home and reassure his people that Uncle Sam is not going to pull a fast fadeout."

"That's what Gen. Thieu wanted to hear," the Congressman said. "That's what we told him, and now it looks like we return to war as usual."

Pointing out the President assured Gen. Thieu that the U.S. would not impose a coalition government on Saigon as a price of peace, Dole said, "The President could hardly have said differently."

"To have done so would have destroyed much of the leverage the American negotiators have at the Paris peace talks," he added.

On the Paris talks, Dole said, "Although hopeful for good news, I am not presently encouraged about the progress of negotiations there."

"With no concessions forthcoming from the other side, perhaps the idea of a coalition is not worth discussing," he said.

"However eventually, since a military victory appears to be an impossibility, a way must be found to include dissident elements in the governing structure of South Vietnam," he added.