

236

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 4 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) termed President Nixon's Nov. 3 Vietnam message "probably the most direct, straightforward and revealing discussions of nation^a policy ever presented to the American people."

In a statement here, Dole added, "Now that the President has levelled with the people on the American strategy and progress toward peace, it is time the American people level also -- in support of the President and against the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong."

"The President very carefully and thoroughly explained what this Administration has done, even before taking office in January, to bring about a just and lasting peace," Dole said. "He told of specific initiatives which he undertook in utmost faith and generosity. He disclosed the unprecedented step of a direct letter, outside regular diplomatic channels, to Ho Chi Minh seeking to promote meaningful progress at the Paris negotiations."

"Each and every gesture, feeler and contact made by the U.S. has been summarily dismissed by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong," he added.

"Despite their total lack of cooperation, the President has pursued increasing Vietnamization of the war, the success of which permitted him to set up a timetable to withdraw American combat forces from South Vietnam."

"That the President has announced specific details of his policy illustrates his understanding of international politics and the fundamentals of negotiation. We must maintain our bargaining position, while simultaneously making efforts to achieve peace away from the table at Paris."

ADD 1

"There can be no doubt now as to the American commitment and goal in Vietnam," Dole said. "Our commitment is to the assured and secured right of the South Vietnamese to freely choose their own destiny. Our goal is to end American military involvement as quickly as is consistent with our commitment."

"This commitment and this goal demand full and vocal support of American public opinion," Dole said. "This commitment and this goal also demand the full weight of public opinion be hurled against the government of North Vietnam and the NLF for refusing to enter serious negotiations to end the terrible and tragic conflict."

In his statement, Dole also called for hearings on S. Res. 271 which he introduced Oct. 13. The five-point resolution, with 36 cosponsors, calls on North Vietnam and the NLF "to respond to U.S. initiatives and enter into serious negotiations to end the war."