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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
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STATEMENT ON SENATE FLOOR, MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1970

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

Mr. President:

Apparently it's cop-out time in the Democratic party, but I'm not sure if the American people are ready to settle for a cop-out in these dangerous times.

A person or a party or an appeasement group that cops out on one issue or in one area of trouble can hardly be trusted not to do the same the next time around.

Just last week the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee took the road of apologetic appeasement in appearing before the Democratic party's McGovern Commission.

Mr. O'Brien said then that, "No political entity that helps to perpetuate the U.S. involvement in Indochina can ever expect to win the trust and allegiance of that segment of our citizenry most directly affected by the war."

This from a man whose party helped perpetuate and enlarge that war for eight solid years, and should know.

Next, in today's paper we have the incredible story from Kenneth O'Donnell, one of those closest to President Kennedy, that Kennedy would have ended the war in 1963 except for the fact that he feared political repercussions and therefore, presumably without regard to the cost in American lives, decided to wait until after the 1964 election.

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I am at a loss to know why Mr. O'Donnell places the onus for not ending the war in 1963 on the back of the late President, but since he has done so I would like to call attention again to Mr. O'Brien's remark that, "No political entity that helps to perpetuate the U.S. involvement in Indochina can expect to win the trust and allegiance of that segment of our citizenry most directly affected by the war."

I should also like to point out to our young people that under President Nixon the war is being wound down as rapidly as is consistent with our own national security, our commitments to our allies and our credibility with the rest of the world.

President Nixon is doing what he said he would do and he is doing what must be done in the way that it should be done.

Our citizenry most directly affected by the war can now take heart and encouragement from a President's actions regarding Vietnam. This after eight years of being constantly discouraged by a war that was apparently to be fought in 1964 for political purposes and after that was to be fought indefinitely but not to be won or lost or terminated at any time.