

STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
ON THE SENATE FLOOR, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1970

FOR RELEASE AFTER 10 AM TUESDAY

NO KY ON OCTOBER 3

Mr. President:

On October 3, some well-meaning Americans, perhaps joined by the Vice President of South Vietnam, General Ky, are going to hold a march for victory in South Vietnam.

I would like to comment both on the march and on the proposed visit of Vice President Ky.

I think there is no question but that this march is going to backfire; that it is going to create more dissent and possible new strife in America, that it is going to give those who have used America's participation in Vietnam to stir up disorder and anarchy further excuse to do so.

It is going to accomplish no good.

Mr. President, perhaps there was a time to win the war in Vietnam. Perhaps if McNamara and Clifford and President Johnson had set out to achieve a military victory instead of a stalemate that victory could have been achieved. But that time is past.

What President Nixon is aiming for now is to make the South Vietnamese capable of defending themselves against a weakened enemy. And when that is done, ending American participation in the fighting and withdrawing American troops.

If there is a consensus in this country, it is that that is the proper step. For the most part, Americans only differ on the speed with which that withdrawal should be accomplished and whether we should make sure that the South Vietnamese can defend themselves before we withdraw.

UNREALISTIC DEMAND

The demand for total victory is unrealistic in view of today's political climate. What we seek instead is a just peace under which the South Vietnamese can decide their own futures.

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I cannot understand how the sponsor of the march, Dr. Carl McIntyre, can disagree with this any more than I can understand how the doves can, in honor, settle for any less.

I strongly urge that Dr. McIntyre call off his march. It will accomplish nothing except to give the organizers of the new mobe and the SDS, among others, a new propaganda vehicle.

I also strongly urge Vice President Ky not to join in that march for the same reason.

43,000 Americans have died in Vietnam in the hope that a free Vietnam means a free Indochina and that that in turn gives freedom a chance elsewhere in part of the world.

For General Ky now to come here and demand of Americans a new escalation involving more American lives, more American treasure and more American sacrifice is bad taste to say the least.