



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE - APRIL 7, 1972

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SENATOR KENNEDY'S ILL-CONSIDERED REMARKS

Senator Kennedy's ill-considered remark that this Nation has blood on its hands deserves the condemnation and contempt of every decent American. Senator Kennedy (in his connection with the policies of the last two administrations), should never accuse anyone of having blood on his hands.

Senator Kennedy's assertion that President Nixon has walked away from the Paris peace table is as false as the Senator's non-candidacy. President Nixon has refused to participate any further in the old Communist game of borrowing time to make war by pretending to negotiate for peace. When the Communists declare a willingness to end their aggression and begin real peace talks, I can say for the President that his representatives will be ready and waiting at the table.

The Senator's recognition that Hanoi's invasion of the South is tied to Vietnamization is accurate. It is a response to the success of Vietnamization. Very simply, the people of South Vietnam are developing and demonstrating a capacity to defend their freedom. Hanoi doesn't think they should have the capacity to defend themselves. Apparently, Senator Kennedy doesn't think so, either.

Senator Kennedy has little justification for calling on the President to demonstrate his desire for peace. The Presidential policies in Vietnam from the beginning

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have been to achieve peace. He didn't get us in there, and he didn't put nearly 600,000 troops in there. He is ending the war, leaving the South Vietnamese with their best chance of living in freedom, and he is bringing our men home. I think we should remember that it was the people who thought the New Frontier ought to be the Chinese Border--it was that group that put us in Southeast Asia.

So, like a lot of his statements, this one by Senator Kennedy doesn't make much sense, unless you view it in the light of his Presidential ambitions.