

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

82

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 P.M., SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1969

SAN DIEGO, Calif., May 3 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said "the path to peace in Vietnam lies in the Paris negotiations and out of the glare of worldwide publicity."

Speaking at a college Republican meeting at San Diego University, Dole said, "The path to peace will be neither easy nor short."

Noting President Nixon has placed "top priority" on ending the war, he added, "It is now necessary the diplomats do what our military force could not." And it now appears serious Paris negotiations are going to be successful only if conducted in private, out of the glare of worldwide publicity."

At this time, he said, "we have no idea what form an agreement between the protagonists will take. It may be we shall find ourselves assisting in the creation of a neutral government. But at the very least, we can expect the South Vietnamese to assume a greater responsibility for the war effort during the next year."

Pointing out about 35,000 American lives have been lost in Vietnam "for the cause of peace, and there is no peace," he noted there are currently 541,500 troops there at a cost of more than \$30 billion a year, compared to 113 American advisors in Vietnam 9 years ago.

"To some," he said, "it may appear a simple solution to advocate that the President immediately extricate the U.S. from the war. A more realistic and responsible appraisal indicates we cannot abandon overnight a commitment that has been the basis of our foreign policy in Southeast Asia for the past 15 years."