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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

(STATEMENT INSERTED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD JUNE 9, 1969, MON.)

MR. PRESIDENT,

WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, AMERICAN TROOPS WILL BE LEAVING THE BATTLEFIELDS OF VIETNAM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE TRAGIC WAR WAS UNDERTAKEN.

THE PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT THAT THE TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL THAT 25,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS CAN PREPARE TO LEAVE THE FIELDS OF THAT SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY TO BE REPLACED BY THAT COUNTRY'S OWN FORCES.

FEW WOULD DISAGREE THAT THIS IS A MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS PEACE. A STEP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE AWAITED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

I WOULD HOPE THOSE WHO AUTOMATICALLY CRITICISE EVERY MOVE TOWARD PEACE MADE BY PRESIDENT NIXON WILL WITHHOLD FURTHER CRITICISM. THIS IS A TIME FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND COOPERATION; NOT DIVISION AND DISHARMONY.

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