

United States Senate

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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 15 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) tonight hailed the President's announcement of a further withdrawal of 50,000 American troops from Vietnam as indisputable evidence President Nixon's policy in Southeast Asia is working.

"The announcement is further evidence that, despite the Paris deadlock, this President of the United States will not be deterred from bringing the war to a conclusion."

"Strong public support of the Nixon Vietnam strategy played an important role in making possible the withdrawal announced tonight," Dole said. "In the face of a war-weary nation and repeated rebuffs in Paris, implementation and continuation of the Vietnamization plan required -- and received -- broad American support."

Calling the Nixon strategy "the hard, but right road to peace", Dole added, "I am convinced the Vietnamization plan will end the war."

"The U.S. can look forward to total withdrawal of U.S. ground combat forces on a gradual basis, to be replaced in the field by well-trained South Vietnamese. The South Vietnamese can be reassured we believe they have the basic right to determine their future, free from outside interference. And together, we can all look to Paris, in the near future, for some renewed activity because the pressure on the enemy to negotiate a settlement is mounting."