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TO HASTEN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL & VIETNAMIZATION

The critics of the President, as usual, have been unable to wait for the facts or the results before taking to television, radio and press to denounce the South Vietnamese sweep in Laos.

Unfortunately, the media has again given them the credibility they do not deserve.

For instance, even though no American ground troops or advisors are participating, we hear charges of a widened war.

Even though North Vietnam invaded Laos years ago and even though Laos is a vital part of their supply line, we hear demands for an immediate pull-out.

In the last six years, the North Vietnamese have used the Ho Chi Minh Trail to infiltrate into South Vietnam the fantastic total of 630,000 men; 100,000 tons of food; 400,000 weapons and 50,000 tons of ammunition.

Can anyone say why this should be allowed to continue? Can anyone say why the North Vietnamese should always be allowed to pick the time and place and size of the attack?

There is no doubt but that this South Vietnamese offensive will knock the North Vietnamese off-balance -- in fact, it may well make it impossible for them to launch any sort of major attack within the next year.

It is not generally known but the fact is that the North Vietnamese usually take from three to six months to plan a major offensive. This offensive can easily throw out of kilter any timetable they may have for future attacks of their own.

Can anyone deny that it won't hasten the progress of Vietnamization and thereby hasten the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam.

To sum up, there are no American ground forces involved in this action. It is limited in time and in scope. It will permit the security of South Vietnam and hasten American withdrawal.

Those who have demanded immediate withdrawal from Laos and who have again sought to divide and polarize our Nation on an issue that affects all Americans -- should think again.

The President is withdrawing us with courage and with honor from the morass of Southeast Asia into which the McNamaras and Cliffords and O'Briens of another administration led us.

Those who supported them should exercise some restraint and some understanding now.