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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 23 ---- In response to a resolution adopted this morning by the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) made the following statement from the Senate floor:

Mr. Dole: Mr. President, this morning my Democrat colleagues in the Senate adopted a policy resolution "to end the involvement in Indochina and to bring about the withdrawal of all U.S. Forces and the release of all prisoners in a time certain . . ."

In their announced aim of withdrawing American forces and securing the release of all American prisoners, my colleagues are supporting the long-declared goals of the Nixon Administration --- goals which are shared by all responsible Americans.

To the extent that the Senate Democrats' action signifies a sincere endorsement of President Nixon's strategy for peace, I am for it.. Each day is bringing fresh evidence that the President is on the right track. By May 1st of this year, some 265,000 Americans out of a high of more than 540,000 will have been withdrawn from Vietnam. This includes, for the most part, the great majority of our combat troops.

Just this morning, it was reported the number of American fighting men in South Vietnam is at the lowest point since the fall of 1966. Casualty figures have decreased by as much as 60 and 70 per cent.

The President has kept his work in Southeast Asia, and American troops continue to come home. The war is winding down, after the steady escalation of the 1960s.

The questionable portion of the Democrat resolution is that part containing the words "in a time certain . . ." If this is an effort to tie the President's hands and limit his options, then it is totally unacceptable. The President has a plan --- his plan is working --- the troop withdrawals are on schedule and to second guess the President on the terminal date only weakens our position in the field and at the negotiating table.

President Nixon inherited this war and, thankfully, he is ending it. Since the resolution admittedly is not specific, I would urge my Democrat colleagues to spell out their plan for withdrawal and their plan for obtaining release for American Prisoners of war.

In my opinion, President Nixon's greatest single achievement has been ending the war he inherited -- and a recognition of this fact by the Democrat Senators speaks for itself.