



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

## UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

Just over three years ago when President Nixon took office, the United States was entrapped in a foreign policy noted more for its excesses than for its restraint. Members of this body argued that America had become the world's policeman.

President Nixon has from the outset set out to change things. Six months after taking office he voiced what is now called the Nixon Doctrine saying, "we must avoid that kind of policy that will make countries in Asia so dependent upon us that we are dragged into conflicts such as the one that we have in Vietnam."

Today, the war in Vietnam is a very different war from what it had become by 1969 -- under the guidance or misguidance of two Democratic presidents and a Democratic Congress.

What was an American war in Vietnam has become increasingly and overwhelming an effort of the South Vietnamese people to ensure themselves a chance to choose the kind of lives they live.

## PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SAVED AMERICAN LIVES

President Nixon has withdrawn over 500,000 troops. And he has saved the lives of American troops who were dying at the average rate of more than 1,000 a month. Even our draft calls have been cut by three fourths -- and by 1973 will have dropped to zero.

In recent weeks the North Vietnamese have made very

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plain their true intention regarding South Vietnam. They are not seeking an end to American assistance for South Vietnam. They are seeking an end to the existence of South Vietnam -- by whatever means necessary. On Easter weekend, the full armies of North Vietnam began a total invasion of South Vietnam, complete with new and advanced weaponry provided -- for whatever reason -- by other major powers, including the Soviet Union.

It was in response to this act of incredible arrogance -- fueled by enemy deceit at the so-called peace table -- that the President moved to prevent the North Vietnamese bandits from receiving further supplies with which to kill more people whose only crime is a desire to be left only to live their lives in peace.

#### SOME SEEM TO FORGET THEIR PAST

I am sad to say that even this new and most flagrant violation of international law and decency has not aroused some Americans. I am bewildered by the vacillation exhibited by some whose major aim seems to be to forget their part in creating America the world policeman so they can feel free to criticize a President who has not only moved to change American policy, but has moved to change our policy in a way that will not destroy our friends.

During the 1960's who was it that made Vietnam a war without end? Who sent American troops there? Who promised South Vietnam all the help they needed?

Independent of the wisdom of making those promises, there is a deeper moral problem. Should men who made those promises and made possible a conflict of growing proportions, desert a President who is trying to keep their promises. Should those who raised South Vietnamese hopes, yet couldn't make them come true, castigate a President who is merely trying to prevent a North Vietnamese armies from completely ending those hopes?

THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN DIGNITY

The notion of bipartisanship does not mean that

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members of the U.S. Senate should not disagree about foreign policy, but it does mean that the President of the United States should not be the victim of the kind of invective we have heard from some during the last few days. It does mean that the United States should continue to believe in the dignity and the authority of International law. And that aggression unchecked, furthered by other great powers, if not stopped will come to harm us all.

It is one thing for American armies to protect those who would be easy prey to aggression. It is something else for America to turn her back on those who steeled by our promises are still fighting to protect their own land from enemy hands.

John Kennedy once said: "... while we shall negotiate freely, we shall not negotiate freedom. Our answer to the classive question of Patrick Henry is still 'No.' Life is not so dear and peace is not so precious'...as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery.' ...We will always seek peace -- but we will never surrender."

That is the promise which caused America to commit so much to the South Vietnamese fight for a free choice. Let all of those who applauded his words admit today that the sentiments are any less worthy now and that today after encouraging the hopes of South Vietnam they will decry the efforts of this President to give such words some meaning.