

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE

CUYAHOGA - LAKE COUNTY GOP DINNER
CLEVELAND, OHIO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1971

Bob Dole
May 26, 1971

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING HOW GLAD I AM TO BE HERE. THE THEME OF THIS GATHERING IS "RALLY ROUND THE FLAG", AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO ASK EACH OF YOU TO DO. FOR IF WE ARE TO SEE AMERICA RECEIVE THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP SHE DESERVES IN THE DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES, EACH OF US MUST RALLY TO THE COUNTRY AND TO OUR PARTY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

Mag. Spitzing

SACRIFICE OF PARTY WORKERS

IN 1968, THE TIRELESS SACRIFICE OF THOUSANDS OF DEDICATED PARTY WORKERS IN OHIO AND ACROSS THE NATION ELECTED RICHARD NIXON. HE HAS VINDICATED THEIR TRUST. HE IS DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF WINDING DOWN THE WAR AND WINDING UP THE ECONOMY. AND HE IS DOING IT AGAINST HEAVY ODDS. IT IS UP TO US TO SEE THAT HIS EFFORTS GET THE RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT THEY DESERVE -- AND ANOTHER TERM IN OFFICE IN 1972.

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THAT MEANS A NATIONWIDE GRASS ROOTS EFFORT INVOLVING ALL OF US --
ONE WE CAN AND MUST MOUNT.

DOING SO WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT, FOR AT STAKE
IS THE VERY BASIC ISSUE OF WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY OUR CHILDREN AND GRAND-
CHILDREN ARE GOING TO INHERIT.

PEOPLE FORGET THE PAST QUICKLY. THIS TENDENCY OF THE PUBLIC TO
FORGET HAS BEEN THE SALVATION OF MANY POLITICIANS.

DEMOS FEAR PAST

AS WE WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE LEADING ASPIRANTS FOR THE DEMOCRAT
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION NEXT YEAR, IT BECOMES CLEARER AND CLEARER THAT
THEY ARE BANKING HEAVILY ON THE FACT THAT MEMORIES ARE SHORT.

THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK. IT MAY BE TRUE THAT PEOPLE FORGET
MUCH OF THE PAST. BUT, NOTHING SHORT OF TOTAL AND UNIVERSAL AMNESIA
WOULD LEAD THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO ELECT TO THE PRESIDENCY
ANY OF THE FRONTRUNNERS FOR THE DEMOCRAT NOMINATION.

SOME OF THE CLEAREST EXAMPLES OF WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT EMERGE
WHEN WE LISTEN TO WHAT THESE DEMOCRAT HOPEFULS SAY ABOUT THE VITAL

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FUNCTION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE -- AND CONTRAST WHAT THEY SAY TODAY WITH WHAT THEY WERE SAYING WHEN THEIR PARTY WAS IN POWER.

VIETNAM ABOUT FACE

CONSIDER VIETNAM. IT TAKES A LOT OF GALL FOR SPOKESMEN OF THE PARTY THAT GOT US LOST IN VIETNAM TO COMPLAIN THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS NOT GETTING US OUT FAST ENOUGH. BUT THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

OR CONSIDER THE DEFENSE BUDGET. IT TAKES A VERY NIMBLE POLITICIAN TO JUMP FROM THE POSITION OF GENERAL APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN 1968 TO THE POSITION OF COMPLAINING THAT THE SMALLER BUDGET OF 1971 IS TOO HIGH. BUT THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL FAIL TO SEE THROUGH ANY PART OF THE CYNICAL PITCH MOST DEMOCRAT HOPEFULS ARE MAKING FOR VOTES ON THE FAR-OUT LEFT.

AMERICANS REMEMBER

I DO NOT BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THE RECENT PAST. THEY MAY NOT REMEMBER THE PRECISE NUMBERS AND DATES TOO CLEARLY. THEY MAY NOT RECALL THAT WHEN

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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE, THERE WERE 700 AMERICAN MILITARY MEN -- ALL ADVISERS -- IN VIETNAM; THAT NONE WERE INVOLVED IN COMBAT; THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AMERICAN COMBAT CASUALTIES UP TO THAT TIME. BUT THEY ARE LIKELY TO REMEMBER THAT, WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK OFFICE, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 550,000 AMERICAN TROOPS IN VIETNAM; THAT AMERICANS WERE DOING MOST OF THE FIGHTING; THAT AMERICAN COMBAT DEATHS IN THAT LAST YEAR OF A DEMOCRAT ADMINISTRATION HAD RUN AS HIGH AS 562 IN A SINGLE WEEK.

CLIFFORD FAILED

CLARK CLIFFORD, NOW ADVISOR TO ONE OR MORE OF THE PROSPECTIVE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES, WAS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT THAT TIME. HE HAD NO PLANS FOR AN EARLY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM. IN FACT, SHORTLY BEFORE THE 1968 ELECTION, HE SAID THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF REDUCING AMERICAN TROOP STRENGTH IN VIETNAM IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

BUT PRESIDENT NIXON REVERSED THE NATION'S POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM. IN A SHORT TIME, MEL LAIRD DID WHAT HIS PREDECESSOR SAID COULD NOT BE DONE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE TRAINED AND

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EQUIPPED TO TAKE OVER THE FIGHTING FROM AMERICAN FORCES. AND AMERICAN FORCES IN VIETNAM NO LONGER GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER. THEY WERE REDUCED UNTIL TODAY THEY ARE LESS THAN ONE HALF THE NUMBER THERE IN 1968.

VIETNAMESE DOING FIGHTING

TODAY, THANKS TO THIS WISE POLICY, THE CHARACTER OF THE WAR HAS CHANGED. IT IS NO LONGER AN AMERICAN WAR, AS IT WAS WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE. VIETNAMESE ARE NOW DOING THE FIGHTING THAT AMERICANS HAD TO DO THREE YEARS AGO. WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM, IT IS A DWINDLING WAR. ENEMY FORCES NO LONGER THREATEN THE POPULATION CENTERS OF THE COUNTRY. SINCE LAST AUGUST, THEY HAVE NOT MOUNTED ONE ATTACK INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM WITH A FORCE AS LARGE AS A BATTALION. THEY ARE REDUCED TO RESORTING TO ISOLATED, HIT-AND-RUN, SMALL-SCALE TERRORISTIC INCIDENTS AND TO HIDING OUT IN SMALL BANDS IN REMOTE MOUNTAIN AND JUNGLE REDOUBTS.

CONTINUED TROOP REDUCTIONS

FOR EVERY TWO AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN VIETNAM WHEN RICHARD NIXON BECAME PRESIDENT, THERE IS ONLY ONE TODAY. IN SIX MONTHS TIME, THERE

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WILL BE ONLY ONE FOR EVERY THREE. AND THE NUMBER WILL BE REDUCED STEADILY, RESPONSIBLY, UNTIL THE GOAL OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED IS ATTAINED.

GENERATION OF PEACE

WE ARE GETTING OUT OF VIETNAM AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN WITHOUT ABANDONING THE AMERICANS WHO ARE HELD PRISONER BY THE ENEMY AND WITHOUT SOWING THE SEEDS OF ANOTHER VIETNAM IN WHICH YET ANOTHER GENERATION OF YOUNG AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO FIGHT.

THE DEFENSE POLICY OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO GIVE THIS NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS NOW APPROACHING MATURITY A PEACE WHICH IS SECURE AND LASTING. IT IS A POLICY FRAMED IN THE LIGHT OF BITTER LESSONS LEARNED IN VIETNAM.

PRESIDENT NIXON HAS CHOSEN A COURSE THAT IS RESPONSIBLE AND REALISTIC. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE -- AND, UNDER OUR NEW DEFENSE POLICY, IT WILL NOT TRY TO BE -- THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN. BUT NEITHER CAN WE ADOPT A NEW ISOLATIONISM AS SOME SEEM TO ADVOCATE AND BECOME A HERMIT NATION.

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PARTNERSHIP POLICY

THE PRESIDENT'S COURSE IS CALLED PARTNERSHIP. UNDER THIS POLICY, INSTEAD OF PROVIDING AMERICAN TROOPS WHENEVER OTHER NATIONS ARE THREATENED BY INSURRECTION AND OUTSIDE ATTACK, WE ARE HELPING SUCH NATIONS TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, BOTH ALONE AND IN CONCERT WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. WE EXPECT EACH NATION TO DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO DEFEND ITSELF INSTEAD OF LOOKING TO US FOR PROTECTION AGAINST EVERY THREAT.

IT IS BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A PARTNERSHIP THAT WE ARE EXTRICATING OUR FORCES FROM VIETNAM. PARTNERSHIP IS WORKING SUCCESSFULLY IN VIETNAM, AND, IF IT WILL WORK THERE WHERE WAR-TIME CONDITIONS MADE IT FAR FROM AN IDEAL EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY, IT WILL WORK IN MANY OTHER PLACES.

STRENGTH FOR PEACE

THE PRESIDENT KNOWS, UNLIKE SOME OF THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES FOR HIS OFFICE, THAT PEACE IS NOT SECURE UNLESS THE UNITED STATES IS STRONG AND ITS STRENGTH IS SUPPLEMENTED BY THAT OF ITS PEACE-SEEKING PARTNERS. AND SO HE IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY POWER OF OUR NATION AT

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A LEVEL ADEQUATE FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR INTERESTS. IF TWO GLOBAL WARS AND KOREA DEMONSTRATED ANYTHING, THEY PROVED THAT AN UNPREPARED UNITED STATES IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO PEACE IN THE WORLD.

AND WHILE HE WORKS TO KEEP US STRONG, THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO MADE A NEW PROGRESS IN REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS. PRESIDENT NIXON'S DISCLOSURE OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE SALT TALKS LAST WEEK WAS ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR ALL AMERICANS AND TO THE WHOLE WORLD, FOR IT OFFERS NEW HOPE THAT CHANCES OF A NUCLEAR WAR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE WILL BE GREATLY DIMINISHED.

AND THIS BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACHIEVED BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS KEPT AMERICA STRONG ENOUGH AND PREPARED ENOUGH TO NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF MILITARY PARITY -- NOT FROM A POSITION OF WEAKNESS.

REALISTIC DETERRENCE

IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP AND STRENGTH, A NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY -- THE STRATEGY OF REALISTIC DETERRENCE -- HAS BEEN FORMULATED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. AND THIS IS PRODUCING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF DEFENSE FORCE FROM THAT MAINTAINED IN THE PAST.

THE NEW DEFENSE FORCE THAT IS EMERGING WILL BE LIGHTER IN MANPOWER, BUT WILL PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGY. STRIKING REDUCTIONS

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IN THE SIZE OF OUR MILITARY FORCES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. TODAY THERE ARE 1 1/4 MILLION FEWER PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE THAN WERE THERE WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK OFFICE.

DRAFT CALLS DOWN

MANPOWER REDUCTIONS OF THIS MAGNITUDE HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CUT DRAFT CALLS TO CLOSE TO ONE-HALF OF THE NUMBER CALLED IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE PRIOR ADMINISTRATION. THEY HAVE PUT WITHIN OUR REACH THE GOAL OF AN ~~ALL~~-VOLUNTEER MILITARY FORCE.

DEFENSE SPENDING HAS BEEN CUT FROM 9.5% TO 6.8% OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT. IT IS NOW ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET. THE SHARE OF OUR NATIONAL OUTPUT AND OF FEDERAL SPENDING THAT GOES FOR DEFENSE IS NOW LOWER THAN IT HAS BEEN AT ANY TIME -- IN WAR OR PEACE -- DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS.

THESE BUDGETARY FACTS SHOW THAT, UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE MADE THE TRANSITION FROM A WAR-TIME TO A PEACE-TIME ECONOMY. THEY SHOW THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS REVERSED THE PRIORITIES OF THE PRECEDING ADMINISTRATION BY CUTTING BACK DEFENSE SPENDING IN FAVOR OF HIGHER SPENDING FOR URGENT DOMESTIC NEEDS.

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IMPROVED LIFE FOR MILITARY

OUR DEFENSE FORCES ARE CHANGING IN YET ANOTHER WAY. THE CONDITIONS OF MILITARY LIFE ARE BEING VASTLY IMPROVED. FOR TOO LONG, THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE -- PARTICULARLY IN THE LOWER ENLISTED RANKS -- HAVE BEEN MISERABLY PAID. THEIR FAMILIES HAVE TOO OFTEN BEEN FORCED TO LIVE IN SUBSTANDARD HOUSING. THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO IRRITATING RESTRICTIONS, DEMEANING TASKS, AND MAKE-WORK DUTIES.

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE BEING CHANGED. THE MILITARY PROFESSION IS BEING ACCORDED THE RESPECT IT DESERVES. THOSE WHO DEFEND OUR SECURITY AND FREEDOM ARE BEGINNING TO RECEIVE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE PRIDE AND GRATITUDE THAT THE REST OF US SHOULD FEEL TOWARD THEM.

WISER POLICY

THIS INCREASED RESPECT FOR THE MILITARY PROFESSION IS MANIFESTED, TOO, IN THE PENTAGON BY THE CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. AFTER HAVING BEEN SHUT OUT OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, OUR MILITARY LEADERS NOW FIND THAT DOOR IS OPEN ONCE AGAIN. THEIR ADVICE ON MILITARY MATTERS IS SOUGHT AND CONSIDERED. THEY ONCE AGAIN PLAY THEIR RIGHTFUL ROLE IN THE DETERMINATION AND THE EXECUTION OF MILITARY POLICY. AND THIS MEANS WISER DECISIONS ON DEFENSE

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POLICY THAN SOME THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY AMATEUR STRATEGISTS IN THE PAST.

TO SUMMARIZE THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NATIONAL DEFENSE UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, I WOULD LIST THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A WAR THAT APPEARED ENDLESS IN 1968 IS BEING BROUGHT TO A CLOSE. AMERICAN FORCES NOW SUPPLEMENT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE INSTEAD OF FIGHTING FOR THEM. AMERICAN TROOPS ARE COMING HOME.

(2) A NEW POLICY OF PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT. OTHER NATIONS ARE ASSUMING MAJOR MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH OUR FORCES USED TO CARRY.

(3) THE DEFENSE FORCES HAVE BEEN CUT MARKEDLY IN SIZE AND IN COST IN REAL DOLLARS. THE NEW FORCE, TAILORED TO THE ALTERED RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERSHIP, WILL RELY LESS ON MANPOWER, MORE ON CONSTANTLY ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY.

(4) THE STATUS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO THE NEWEST PRIVATE, HAS BEEN UPGRADED.

(5) WE HAVE EMBARKED ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD ARMS LIMITATION.

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GOAL IS PEACE

THESE FIVE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DEFENSE POLICY CONSTITUTE A RECORD OF PROGRESS IN WHICH WE CAN TAKE PRIDE. EACH OF THEM IS A MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF PEACE.

FOR IT IS PEACE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION SEEKS ABOVE ALL OTHER OBJECTIVES -- PEACE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE -- PEACE FOR US, FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, FOR THE MIDDLE EAST -- PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AT PARIS, THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE PATIENTLY SOUGHT A NEGOTIATED END TO THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ON FAIR -- INDEED, ON GENEROUS -- TERMS. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS HAVE BORNE SOME FRUIT IN THE CEASE-FIRE NOW IN ITS NINTH MONTH.

BUT, SCHOOLED IN THE LESSONS OF HISTORY, THIS ADMINISTRATION KNOWS THAT WE CAN ATTAIN NO PEACE WORTHY OF THE NAME -- NO JUST PEACE, NO DURABLE PEACE -- UNLESS THE UNITED STATES POSSESSES A DEFENSE FORCE CAPABLE OF DETERRING AGGRESSION. THE MOST RELIABLE GUARANTEE OF PEACE LIES IN THE STRENGTH OF OUR COUNTRY.

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CONFIDENT IN FUTURE

AND IN 1972, THE STRENGTH OF OUR COUNTRY WILL DEPEND ON THE KIND OF MAN WE CHOOSE AS PRESIDENT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF OHIO, AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, WILL NOT FALTER IN THEIR JUDGMENT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICIES AND LEADERSHIP OF RICHARD NIXON WILL BE VINDICATED.

BUT BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER OF 1972, IT IS UP TO EACH ONE OF US TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THAT VICTORY -- TO WORK AND PLAN AND ORGANIZE SO THAT A GREAT PRESIDENT WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A GREAT PARTY EFFORT.

WE ARE COUNTING ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE PEOPLE OF OHIO TO BE A MAJOR PART OF THIS GREAT EFFORT, AND I BELIEVE THAT OUR FAITH IS WELL PLACED.

Quinn Loman - Chen

Mrs. Butler -

Ray Gelin

John Anderson - Martha Wane

Bell - Bell -

Tram -

Bear Steing -

Agatha - Hannie

M. Loman -

Agnes - Greg. Aubrey

Comments

→ "see the case" - Bob Toff.

30 - Chen -