



**NEWS
RELEASE**

from the **HUMPHREY** for **SENATOR**
VOLUNTEERS

1722 HENNEPIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

Phones: BRidgeport 4112 • PRIor 7100

SENATOR HUMPHREY WARNS OF CUT-BACKS IN MILITARY SECURITY

America cannot afford "to gamble with the adequacy of our armed forces", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey warned in an address to the Winona Kiwanis Club luncheon today.

"It would be a gamble with the peace and the very survival of our civilization" he declared. "There is nothing that we Americans can pray for with more fervor than peace -- and our greatest assurance of this peace is our ability to withstand and thwart totalitarian aggression."

Senator Humphrey warned that the Republican Administration, despite the fact it has a former general at its helm, was "ignoring the advice of our experts" in putting economy above security.

"The Administration and the Republicans in Congress seemed little disturbed by the unanimous opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that any retreat from the 143-wing Air Force goal involved risks to our security 'beyond the dictates of national prudence'", Senator Humphrey said.

"Today, in 1954, the world situation continues tense. A good part of Indo-China has been lost. The Communist world continues to keep millions of menacing troops under arms. What are the opinions of our military leaders about our military strength?

"Army Chief of Staff General Ridgeway told Congress that the Soviet bloc's military strength is growing faster than the West's.

"Naval Chief Admiral Carney has stated that our present forces are not adequate to meet our world-wide commitments.

"Finally, the leader of NATO, General Gruenther, believes that despite atomic weapons, more Army troops will be required.

"Yet the Administration's reaction to this expert advice calling for the strengthening of our Armed Forces was to cut the Army back from 19 to 17 divisions.

"I was opposed to this reduction in the Army, and I worked and voted against hobbling the development of our Air Force in 1953.

"I love American democracy and freedom too much to trust its defense to a bargain-basement, cut-rate, 'New Look' in National Defense. The weakening of our Armed Forces, both in 1953 and 1954, is a threat to our national security. It is an inviting temptation to aggressors to once more plunge the world into the holocaust of war", Senator Humphrey said.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org