

SUGGESTED DRAFT FOR REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP
TO NEWS CONFERENCE IN CALIFORNIA, DEC. 3, 1965

OK
11/27/65

^{Sam}
Hello Col. Wilson -

I regret that I am unable to be with you personally today, and I hope that Colonel Wilson and my good friends listening will understand that even a Vice President who tries to be conscientious and energetic hasn't yet solved the problem of how to be in two places at the same time. Governor Brown who is with me here faces the same dilemma in this large state. I hope he is working on a solution and that he will pass on his remedy.

My purpose in wanting to say a few words to you today is to emphasize what an enormously important job American civilians--the people working for the Agency for International Development--are doing in Vietnam.

These people--people like Sam Wilson ~~who is with you in Los Angeles~~ are going to win this war in Vietnam. I say this in full knowledge that we have tens of thousands of our military there, and that they are the ones who, with the Vietnamese troops, can and will halt the aggressors.

The Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy are the ones who must and will convince the Communists in Southeast Asia that they cannot shoot their way to power over people who want to--and have a right to--remain free.

X } But all the brave efforts of our troops will be meaningless unless
 X } the people of Vietnam win the chance to live better lives under freedom.
 Military victory over an enemy such as we're fighting in Vietnam is
 futile unless the people who have won can have a little more food to eat,
live a little longer, sleep in their homes more securely, receive
medical care, educate their children, think and talk freely, and enjoy
some of the benefits of the 20th Century;

That's what this war in Vietnam is all about. That's what I mean
 when I say that our foreign aid people like Sam Wilson are the ones who
 are going to win this war. Colonel Wilson has spent nearly a quarter of
 a century as a soldier. As a member of Merrill's Marauders and in the
 years after World War II he has seen what bombs and bullets, napalm and
mortars can accomplish. But he has also seen, in the year and a half he
 has been with AID in Vietnam, what they cannot do. As Assistant Director
of Provincial Operations, he knows how much more effective are the
constructive works of peace. He knows what it means to a farmer in a
Vietnam village to build a school, to dig a well, to raise a few pigs and
better crop of rice-- what it means to a Vietnam mother to see her child
in school, to receive some medical care from a nurse or doctor.

There are ^{some} people in the United States who have not understood this.
 They see the struggle in Vietnam as one only of bombing, ambush, defolia-
tion and house burning. They have not heard--or they don't want to hear--
of the other battle Americans are engaged in, the one being waged by the
Sam Wilsons, the Margaret Raceys, the Bob Traisters, the Margaret
Sigurdssons, the Dr. Humphreys-- the provincial representatives, advisers,

nurses and doctors who are bringing hope to the people. The critics and Cassandras have not heard how our AID people have helped dig nearly 2,000 wells in Vietnam villages in the past five years; helped build more than 4,000 classrooms; trained more than 4,000 teachers; helped publish and distribute more than three million textbooks; helped set up 12,000 health clinics and trained thousands of local nurses and policemen.

If they really knew and understood these things--and the tremendous need to do more--they would appreciate and support the reasons why the United States has committed so much to this effort.

The AID people who wear white uniforms and sport shirts, who carry in their hands instruments and tools instead of grenades and rifles, meet the enemy every day. Their foes are disease, illiteracy, poverty and despair. Their battle is to help the Vietnamese farmer to raise a better crop and get paid a few more dollars; to teach the 55 people out of every 100 who cannot read and write; to furnish medical attention in a country where there is only one doctor for every 29,000 people.

This is the war AID fights. This is the war we are escalating in Vietnam and will escalate some more. This is the reason we need more provincial representatives, more nurses, more advisors, specialists, and experts. We have 800 American civilians there now--we want 2,000.

I know personally--and Governor Brown has emphasized it further--that Californians have always been in the forefront of every worthwhile cause. Now we ask for trained people who are willing to spend 18 months in the service of their country; willing to wear the uniforms of peace

Chicago
Strip

where peace does not yet exist, and willing above all, to pursue one of
our nation's greatest humanitarian traditions--to help other people find
a better life under freedom.

Thank you.

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