

I SUPPORT THE VIET NAM MORATORIUM ON WEDNESDAY. I SHALL SPEND THE DAY WITH STUDENTS DISCUSSING NOT ONLY VIET NAM BUT ALSO OTHER MAJOR WAR/PEACE ISSUES.

TO THE DEGREE THAT THE MORATORIUM WILL RESULT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND PEACEFUL DISCUSSION OF THE PEACE ISSUE, IT IS WORTHY OF THE PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL AMERICANS. THIS MORATORIUM DAY SHOULD BE MORE THAN A DAY OF PROTEST, IT SHOULD BE A DAY OF RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE GOALS OF PEACE. IT MUST, IN FACT, BE A PEACE DAY---PEACE FOR VIET NAM.....PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST....AND PEACE HERE AT HOME AMONGST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

ON FRIDAY I MET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AT THE WHITE HOUSE. IT IS THE PRESIDENT WHO MUST ACT FOR THE COUNTRY IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. IT IS HE WHO HAS BOTH THE POWER AND THE RESPONSIBILITY. HE ALONE IS COMMANDER IN CHIEF. HE IS THE SPOKESMAN FOR AMERICA IN SAIGON AND IN PARIS. WHAT HE DOES...OR WHAT HE DOES NOT DO IS CRUCIAL IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE FOR THIS COUNTRY.

I STATED TO THE PRESIDENT MY OWN VIEWS: FIRST, THAT WE SHOULD, OF COURSE, CONTINUE ALL EFFORTS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD PURSUE A PRUDENT, BUT SYSTEMATIC AND ACCELERATED WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS, WHILE TRAINING AND TURNING OVER THE BURDEN OF COMBAT TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES. THE PRESIDENT HAS STARTED TROOP WITHDRAWALS.... THE LEVEL OF COMBAT IS SHARPLY REDUCED....THIS IS EVIDENCED BY THE ENCOURAGING AND SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN COMBAT CASUALTIES. IN ADDITION, THE BURDEN OF DEFENSE IS BEING GIVEN OVER MORE AND MORE TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. THESE POLICIES ARE SOUND. THEY DESERVE SUPPORT...AND THEY NEED TO BE ACCELERATED.

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I ASSURED PRESIDENT NIXON THAT IF THESE OBJECTIVES FOR PEACE WERE PURSUED,
I WOULD NOT ONLY REFRAIN FROM PARTISANSHIP ON THIS ISSUE, BUT OFFER MY SUPPORT.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, CERTAIN RISKS IN SUCH A POLICY, BUT I AM SURE THAT THEY
ARE FAR LESS THAN A CONTINUATION ~~OF~~ FOR EVEN ONE DAY LONGER THAN NECESSARY, OF
A CONFLICT THAT HAS BEEN SO CONSUMING OF LIVES, RESOURCES, AND SPIRIT IN OUR
AMERICAN SOCIETY. THIS WAR MUST COME TO AN END AND WE MUST ENCOURAGE THE
PRESIDENT TO PURSUE POSITIVE POLICIES OF PEACE THAT WILL ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.



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