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STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

There are dangerous voices being heard in America -- those who advocate escalation of violence and force in Southeast Asia and those who champion revolution and violence here at home. Both must be rejected. Both are self defeating. Both bring continued and increased tragedy to our country.

Peace and reconciliation at home and abroad are the imperatives of today. We had started on the road to peace in Southeast Asia when we stopped the bombing of North Vietnam -- when the negotiations for peace opened in Paris -- when the policy of troop withdrawals and reducing the level of combat were started. All of this has been jeopardized by extending the conflict to Cambodia. No amount of explanation can erase the fact that the level of combat and casualties has been increased -- the war has been expanded, and the hope for peace seriously damaged. The President's decision to gain a hoped for military advantage by attacking enemy areas in Cambodia has reaped a harvest of protest, violence, and tragedy in America.

The lesson is that increased force produces counter force. Violence begets violence. Violent rhetoric and violent actions do not serve the cause of peace. They feed the fires of repression and anarchy. They destroy the moral force of legitimate dissent. The conscience of the nation is aroused. The overwhelming majority of our people -- the youth and their parents -- cry out for leadership to restore respect for life and for our political and social institutions. They demand an end to war and an end to violence at home. They ask only for peace and reconciliation. The call to reason must come from the highest offices of the land. The message of the President must be one of reconciliation, understanding, trust and confidence in the people, and faith in our youth. We cannot get peace at home or abroad by engaging in violence amongst ourselves, and by destructive protest that erodes trust and confidence and provokes repression.

The tragedy of war has brought the death of thousands of our young men. The tragedy of violence at home has now brought the death of young students. Both must be stopped. We must live in peace.

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