

Bombing Halt Statement

I am very encouraged by the President's announcement of a bombing halt and by the inclusion of the National Liberation Front and the Government of South Vietnam in the Paris negotiations.

It is a hopeful first step which, with good will on both sides, can lead to the end of the tragic war in Southeast Asia.

I hope and I pray that this act will be followed swiftly by a de-escalation of fighting in South Vietnam.

As the President pointed out, the road to peace may be long and tortuous, and may not be accomplished by the time the next President takes office. But we have begun. President Johnson, to his credit, has taken a vital first step that may be crucial to ending the war. Let us pray that we may soon end the killing and apply the billions of dollars we now spend on it to the pressing and explosive problems that confront us here at home.

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