

Questions and Answers on a Cease-fire in Vietnam

NCP5V

Do we seek to
STOP THE KILLING
- or just
"Vietnamize" it?

Q. Haven't we already offered a cease-fire and they've rejected it?

A. No. During the long months of the Paris talks no party has ever put a cease-fire proposal on the table for negotiation. Their rejection has been only in reply to speeches and statements, not to a serious negotiating offer. Even if they reject it immediately, there is enough in the "standstill" and election commission proposals to stimulate them to probe their meaning at least privately. This could lead to re-opening negotiations. The continuing presence on the table of a bonafide, comprehensive proposal to stop the killing and give the NLF access to the political process could build enough public support in Vietnam and around the world to persuade them to negotiate in good faith.

Q. Why not wait a while and give the President's Vietnamization plan a chance to work?

A. Placing this kind of proposal on the table at Paris would not conflict with present policy, nor would it cut any future options for de-escalation or faster troop withdrawals. Rather, it would enhance the chances for success of any moves toward peace. The President has said that he will continue efforts to negotiate a just peace. This proposal could put negotiations back on the track. At present there is grave risk that they will be abandoned altogether.

Q. Haven't we made enough concessions? Shouldn't the next move be up to them?

A. This is not a concession. It is a political strategy, offering a political solution to a political problem, rather than depending on military "Vietnamization" alone. Adding the new element of the standstill cease-fire to the proposals already made simply spells out in detail what we could consider an acceptable framework for ending the fighting.

Q. Why not just get out now, and never mind the details?

A. Since President Nixon has rejected this course, and has the support of the American people, that argument is over. This proposal offers a new approach for the peace movement: to stop all the killing by both sides, and move the struggle for power and leadership from the military to the political level.

If adopted, this proposal offers the best chance to bring all of our boys home - not just combat troops - at the earliest possible time. If it doesn't work, we may just have to leave, without a solution. But it is morally unconscionable for us to do so without first trying every possible avenue to end the war completely, and not just Vietnamize it.

Q. What do you mean by standstill cease-fire?

A. We mean an agreement to stop the fighting in place, with each side in de facto control of the territory it occupies until new elections decide who shall govern

the country. The international peace-keeping force would oversee the cease-fire, guaranteeing free movement of trade, individuals and unarmed military personnel throughout all territories. The electoral commission composed of representatives of Saigon, the NLF and the various political and religious groups, would have full jurisdiction over the electoral process, including procedures for registration, voting, etc.

Q. How would the cease-fire be enforced?

A. An international force, preferably Asians, of say, 3000 men could be stationed at listening posts throughout the country. They would receive and handle reports of violations, on the spot or referring them to the higher body. Spot violations would not constitute a break-down of the agreement. Decisions should be made by majority rule, rather than the unanimity which has paralyzed the present International Control Commission.

Q. By calling for elections aren't we forcing Western values and traditions that are foreign to an Asian society?

A. All the Vietnamese parties on both sides at Paris have proposed elections as the way to settle the question of who rules the country. The chief point of contention is who runs the country during the interim period. The NLF rejects Saigon. Saigon rejects a coalition government. The election commission offers a compromise, in effect a "coalition commission" with its authority limited to the electoral process. Other governmental processes would remain in the hands of those in de facto control of each territory until the elections take place.

Q. What would be the likely outcome of such elections?

A. Chances are the NLF would win some seats in the Assembly and a minority role in the central government. Some who have been involved in the negotiations from the beginning think they would settle for this. More important, this political process would benefit the people because the various parties would be competing politically for their support with progressive social programs instead of using violence, repression and terror to impose their will by military force.

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN VIETNAM/ NEGOTIATION NOW!
156 FIFTH AVENUE, ROOM 516
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VIETNAMIZATION- What does it mean?

It means no end in sight to the killing and suffering in Vietnam.

It means leaving the Vietnamese to fight each other as we withdraw our forces, whether we withdraw them now or later.

It means continuing heavy costs to equip and support the South Vietnamese war effort for years to come.

It means risking escalation through incidents, calculated or accidental.

It means a military solution to what is basically a political problem:

• a narrower, rather than a broader base, for the present Saigon government

• a harder, unyielding stance by the National Liberation Front

—exclusion from a voice in their destiny of the millions who don't have guns; military repression and terror by both sides, rather than political efforts to win them over or respond to their needs with programs for better social and economic conditions.

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO PEACE THAT HAS NOT BEEN TRIED A way that does not mean victory or surrender by either side, a way that offers a political solution to a political problem.

NO PARTY TO THE PARIS TALKS HAS EVER PUT ON THE TABLE FOR NEGOTIATION A COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

Proposing such a plan would rally support in Vietnam, in the U.S. and around the world, and offer hope of setting the Paris talks in motion once again. Negotiating such a proposal would constitute negotiation of a political settlement and an end to the war. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by making such a proposal.

"Most important, we must try to stop the fighting now and capture the initiative for peace. If the United States were to come forward with a proposal calling for a standstill cease-fire, it could have a profound impact throughout the world."

Ambassador Cyrus R. Vance
former Vietnam peace negotiator

How to get a CEASE-FIRE in Vietnam

What the U.S. should do

- **PUT ON THE TABLE FORMALLY FOR NEGOTIATION AT PARIS A COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED STANDSTILL CEASE-FIRE BY ALL SIDES, CONTAINING DETAILED PROVISIONS REGARDING:**

(a) international peace-keeping machinery to oversee the cease-fire, the withdrawal of all outside military forces and the protection of minorities, with safeguards to guarantee all South Vietnamese freedom of speech, assembly and the press, and protection against terrorism and political assassination;

(b) prompt free elections supervised by a joint electoral commission in which all parties are fully represented, with all sides agreeing to accept the results of the elections;

(c) release of all prisoners of war and political prisoners by both sides;

(d) relief and aid to bind the wounds of the war and to provide for social reconstruction and economic

assistance to land reform and other programs leading to full economic and political freedom for all the people of South Vietnam;

- **NAME A PERMANENT HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE PARIS PEACE TALKS TO CARRY FORWARD THIS PROPOSAL.**
- **STATE CLEARLY OUR INTENTION, WITHIN SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS OF THE DATE THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT TAKES EFFECT, TO WITHDRAW ALL U.S. FORCES FROM SOUTH VIETNAM.**
- **TAKE STEPS TO DE-ESCALATE THE FIGHTING AND CREATE A CLIMATE FAVORABLE TO NEGOTIATIONS AND A POLITICAL SOLUTION.**
- **PRESS SAIGON TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRATIZATION INCLUDING FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.**

What YOU can do

- Write President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington D.C., urging him to take these steps.
- Write your Senators and Congressman, urging them to join in sponsorship of Senate Resolution 351, calling for a standstill cease-fire and political settlement.
- Send for background materials for discussions in your church, club, union, community, political group meetings.
- Distribute this leaflet, buttons, bumper-stickers.

- Urge candidates in your district to support this program in their platforms.
- Write letters-to-the-editor in support of the standstill cease-fire proposal.
- Talk with community leaders, opinion makers, editorial writers or write to them.
- Send a contribution, to help gather support for this program.

Clip and send to: National Committee for a Political Settlement in Vietnam

156 Fifth Avenue, Room 516, New York, N.Y. 10010 212-889-4018

Send me:

- Information/Action Kit — \$1.00
- Cease-fire Now Buttons, — 10¢
- Bumper stickers — 10¢
- Leaflets — 5¢
- Senate Resolution 351 — 1¢
- Other current re-prints, assorted 5¢

I enclose \$ _____

Add 25¢ for postage

I want to help this important program to stop all the killing in Vietnam.

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CEASE-FIRE NOW

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