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SPECIAL REPORT

## ニュース特報

### WHITE HOUSE 'FACT SHEET' ON VIETNAM\* OCTOBER 21, 1969

The Situation as of January 20:

#### Military Conditions

-- The number of U. S. troops to Vietnam was still increasing. (When the men on their way there on January 20 finally arrived, it reached an all-time high in February.) We appeared still to be seeking a military solution.

-- Military operations were characterized by maximum military pressure on the enemy, through emphasis on offensive operations.

-- Progress in strengthening the South Vietnamese Army was slow; resources being devoted to this effort did not receive high priority.

#### Political Conditions

-- We found only a general and vague set of proposals for political settlement of the war. While they called for "self-determination", they provided no specific program for achieving it.

-- Mutual withdrawal of forces was provided for under the Manila Declaration, which envisioned that the Allied withdrawal would be completed within six months of the withdrawal of North Vietnamese forces and the subsiding of the level of violence.

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\*The 'fact sheet' was circulated among members of Congress on October 21, 1969 through the White House Office of Bryce Harlow, Presidential Assistant specializing in Congressional Liaison.

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AMERICAN EMBASSY - TOKYO

## The Situation Today

### Military Conditions

-- We have instituted a Vietnamization program which envisages South Vietnamese responsibility for all aspects of the war -- coping with both Viet Cong insurgency and regular North Vietnamese forces -- even if we cannot make progress in the political negotiations.

-- We have offered the withdrawal of U. S. and Allied forces over a 12-month period, if North Vietnamese forces also withdraw.

-- We have declared that we would retain no military bases.

-- We have begun to reduce our presence in South Vietnam by setting in motion the replacement of over 60,000 U. S. troops (12 percent of total troops or 20 percent of combat troops). This is a meaningful act of deescalation.

-- We have emphasized to our military commanders the requirement that losses be held to an absolute minimum, consistent with their mission to protect Allied forces and the civilian population. (Casualties in the first nine months of the Administration are one-third less than during the comparable period last year.)

### Political Conditions

For the first time, concrete and comprehensive political proposals for settlement of the war have been made:

-- We have proposed free elections organized by joint commissions under international supervision.

-- We and the Government of South Vietnam have announced that we are prepared to accept any political outcome which is arrived at through free elections.

-- We have offered to negotiate supervised cease-fires under international supervision to facilitate the process of withdrawal.

-- We have expressed willingness to discuss the ten-point program of the other side, together with plans put forward by the other parties.

In short, the only item which has not been declared negotiable is the right of the people of South Vietnam to determine their future, free of outside interference.

The Goodell Resolution sets December 1, 1970 as the deadline for the withdrawal of all U. S. forces from Vietnam.

The Resolution:

-- Destroys any incentive for the enemy to negotiate by telling him that we shall have withdrawn by December 1, 1970 whether or not he makes any concessions.

-- Thus, forecloses a compromise settlement of the war before December 1970, and does not provide a basis for ending the conflict among the Vietnamese after that time.

Progress Made to Date in Vietnam:

-- The enemy was unable to launch the summer offensive which everyone had predicted.

-- The infiltration rate is down by 2/3 (which means that the possibility of an offensive this fall has receded).

-- Casualties for the first nine months of this year are down 1/3 compared with the comparable period last year.

-- The South Vietnamese Army is larger, stronger and more well-equipped.

-- The GVN influence has expanded substantially throughout the countryside and the Government has made significant progress in coping with its domestic problems.

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