

USIS

A  
FILE 6093  
DATE SUBCAT  
11/12

NIXON REAFFIRMS LASTING PEACE AS U.S. GOAL IN VIETNAM (510)

WASHINGTON -- THE AMERICAN DEBATE ON VIETNAM, PRESIDENT NIXON SAID OCTOBER 14 "IS NOT RPT NOT ABOUT ANY DESIRE BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR WAR; THE DEBATE IS ABOUT PEACE AND HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE IT."

MR. NIXON, SPEAKING AT A WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY MARKING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER, REAFFIRMED HIS ADMINISTRATION'S GOAL OF ENDING THE WAR IN VIETNAM, "AN END THAT WILL PROMOTE NOT RPT NOT A TEMPORARY BUT A LASTING PEACE."

WITH MRS. MAMIE EISENHOWER, THE LATE PRESIDENT'S WIDOW, STANDING AT HIS SIDE, MR. NIXON TOLD OF HIS LAST CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL EISENHOWER BEFORE HIS DEATH LAST MARCH.

"HE MADE A VERY SIMPLE BUT PROFOUND COMMENT ON THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CENTURY," MR. NIXON SAID. "HE SAID THAT THE DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CENTURY HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE WAR. THE DEBATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT HOW WE COULD ACHIEVE PEACE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AMONG AMERICANS DEEPLY DEVOTED TO KEEPING PEACE, MAINTAINING PEACE."

IN HIS REMARKS, MR. NIXON DID NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THE PRIVATELY ORGANIZED SO-CALLED "MORATORIUM" ON VIETNAM SET FOR OCTOBER 15. EARLIER OCTOBER 14, HOWEVER, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HUGH SCOTT TOLD NEWSMEN THE PRESIDENT "SHARES THE ANGUISH OF SPIRIT" THAT WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED OCTOBER 15 FOR AMERICAN DEAD IN VIETNAM.

SENATOR SCOTT ADDED THAT MR. NIXON'S PLAN FOR ENDING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT WOULD BRING PEACE AND "IF ANYONE HAS A BETTER PLAN, THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT."

"EVERYONE WANTS TO GET OUT OF THIS WAR," THE SENATOR SAID, "AND WE WILL DO IT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS EVENTS WILL PERMIT."

PAGE TWO -- 'LASTING PEACE'

IN THE CEREMONY AT WHICH MR. NIXON SPOKE LATER, THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN FOUR WARS IN THIS CENTURY CAME FROM A DESIRE FOR PEACE. CITING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL EISENHOWER, MR. NIXON SAID:

"IN WORLD WAR ONE, PRESIDENT WILSON SAID IT WAS A WAR TO END WARS AND WE WENT TO EUROPE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. IN WORLD WAR TWO, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAID THE AMERICAN FRONTIER WAS ON THE RHINE AND WE WENT TO EUROPE BECAUSE WE WANTED PEACE AND WE KNEW IT WAS NECESSARY TO STOP AGGRESSION THERE IF WE WERE TO HAVE IT.

"IN THE KOREAN WAR," THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED, "THE QUESTION WAS NOT RPT NOT ANY DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES TO WAGE WAR BUT TO DEFEND THE CAUSE OF PEACE, THE RIGHT OF A NATION TO EXIST AND TO LIVE IN PEACE. AND SO IT IS ALSO IN VIETNAM."

DURING THE CEREMONY MR. NIXON MADE AWARDS TO PERSONS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM, A PRIVATELY ORGANIZED GROUP TO FURTHER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FOUNDED BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER.

MR. NIXON SAID THE GENERAL OFTEN MENTIONED THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM IN THEIR TALKS TOGETHER AFTER MR. EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE. "IT IS TRULY ONE OF THOSE PATHS TO PEACE," MR. NIXON QUOTED MR. EISENHOWER AS SAYING.

"WE HOPE IT CAN BE EXPANDED MORE AND MORE," MR. NIXON SAID, "TO EXPAND IT AMONG PEOPLES THAT ARE NOT RPT NOT ONLY ALLIES AND FRIENDS BUT ALSO IN THOSE AREAS OF THE WORLD THAT ARE POTENTIALLY OUR ENEMIES. WE HOPE IT CAN BE EXPANDED TO AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND ALSO BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT GREAT POTENTIAL POWER OF PEOPLE THAT EXISTS IN MAINLAND CHINA." ITEM