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NIXON RESTATES U.S. DETERMINATION TO GET OUT OF VIETNAM (380)

WASHINGTON -- PRESIDENT NIXON HAS RESTATED DETERMINATION TO END U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

"WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN," THE PRESIDENT SAID DECEMBER 3 IN TALKING WITH A GIRL VISITOR WHO CHALLENGED HIM REGARDING AMERICA'S ROLE IN VIETNAM. THE GIRL, DEBORAH JEAN SWEET, WAS ONE OF FOUR RECIPIENTS OF YOUNG AMERICAN MEDALS FOR BRAVERY OR SERVICE PRESENTED IN A WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY.

BY THE END OF 1970 A TOTAL OF 205,500 U.S. TROOPS WILL HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM SINCE MR. NIXON TOOK OFFICE IN JANUARY 1969. ACCORDINGLY THE CEILING WILL BE REDUCED TO 344,000 BEFORE 1971 BEGINS.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BRING HOME 150,000 MORE U.S. SERVICEMEN BY NEXT MAY 1.

U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ULTIMATE ABILITY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO ASSUME THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING

THEIR COUNTRY -- AN INDICATION THAT FURTHER U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS CAN BE EXPECTED.

MISS SWEET DREW PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMMENT AFTER SHE SAID SHE FOUND IT "HARD TO BELIEVE" HE WAS SINCERE IN GIVING AN AWARD FOR SERVICE "UNTIL YOU GET US OUT OF THE WAR."

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SHE RECEIVED THE MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF HER WORK IN RACE RELATIONS AND IN ORGANIZING A 48-KILOMETER MARCH IN NOVEMBER 1968, BY 3,000 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO RAISE MONEY TO FEED THE HUNGRY. A TOTAL OF 25,000 DOLLARS WAS DONATED TO BUY FOOD PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FOR AMERICAN INDIANS IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN AND IRRIGATION PUMPS FOR NICARAGUA.

TWO OTHER AWARDS -- ONE POSTHUMOUS -- WERE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT TO YOUTHS WHO HAD SAVED OTHERS FROM DROWNING, AND THE FOURTH MEDAL WENT TO A YOUNG WOMAN FOR HER VOLUNTEER WORK WITH MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

IN MAKING THE AWARDS, PRESIDENT NIXON SAID THE NATION WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE "BECAUSE THEY ARE THE LEADERS OF AMERICA IN THE FUTURE.

"WE HEAR TOO MUCH THESE DAYS," HE ASSERTED, "ABOUT THE VERY SMALL MINORITY OF YOUNG AMERICANS WHO HAVE LOST FAITH IN THEIR COUNTRY; TOO LITTLE ABOUT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF YOUNG AMERICANS WHO DISPLAY COURAGE IN THEIR DAILY LIVES, WHO ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND YOUNG AMERICANS WHO ARE MOTIVATED BY IDEALISM, WHO WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THIS NATION, THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR STATES BETTER FOR THEMSELVES, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, BETTER FOR OTHER PEOPLE." ITEM

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HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM