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AMERICAN RAID SHOWS HANOI'S WEAKNESS

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OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. LANDGREBE. Mr. Speaker, the recent raid by a small band of valiant men in an effort to rescue American prisoners-of-war has touched off waves of weeping and wailing by those elements in this country who will be satisfied with nothing less than surrender by our country.

The voices of fear have been heard once more, telling us what a reckless move this was by the President and asking us to quake with fear about the dire consequences that will result from this action.

And yet, I would ask, what was the reaction by Hanoi? Our raiding party went in by helicopter, 20 nautical miles from Hanoi itself, surrounded by hostile territory and miles from any reinforcement. Were they met and crushed by an invincible force of crack North Vietnamese troops?

On the contrary, the raid was conducted without a single casualty. The only loss was that of a helicopter, and this was due not to enemy action, but to a mechanical malfunction. If such an operation can be conducted twenty miles from the capital city of North Vietnam without reprisal, reaction or resistance, why do the architects of surrender continue to tell us that we must act timidly in Vietnam? Why do they cling to the myth that we cannot win this war? Why are they so sorely afraid of this tiny fly-speck on the globe?

Unfortunately, the raid did not accomplish its objective. Whether this was due to faulty intelligence or a security leak no one knows at this time. But I find a great deal of encouragement in the fact that the raid met with absolutely no resistance. I believe it clearly indicates the impotence of North Vietnam and sharply illumines the folly of our no-win policy.

Like the Cambodian incursion before it, the raid at Sontay shows that we are capable of any positive military action in Southeast Asia and that there is very little risk in taking that action. On my recent visit to Indochina, I talked with many high-ranking military officers, the true experts in military matters. To a

man, they told me that we can end this war quickly and decisively by military victory.

This would be a faster and in my opinion a much more satisfactory solution Vietnamization—even Vietnamization with a timetable. Its effect would be more sure and decisive in accomplishing the goals so many Americans have died for—freedom of choice in South Vietnam. It would probably result in the smallest loss of American lives and the smallest expenditure of American tax dollars.

At present, the peace talks drag on at Paris, with no indication that the Communists have ever seriously considered peaceful settlement. Our American POW's continue to languish in squalid concentration camps, while Hanoi callously ignores our pleading, our cajoling and our concessions on their behalf.

It is unmistakably clear that, unlike the United States, North Vietnam has never deviated from its intention of unconditional military conquest of all Indochina and will be satisfied with nothing less. Negotiations under such circumstances are an exercise in futility. The only way out is by victory for America or surrender by Hanoi; a middle ground, or "political solution" as some choose to call it, is impossible when our enemy has absolutely no motivation to settle for such a solution.

A surrender would be a betrayal of freedom in all Asia; a military victory would preserve freedom and show the Communists all over the world that we will not allow aggression and oppression to be rewarded. Additionally, the positive use of our military power, with its purpose of victory as unmistakable as that of Hanoi, could conceivably get the Paris talks at last off dead center. Such action would at last give Hanoi some motivation to negotiate and achieve that political solution that all of us want, but which, in my opinion, will not be forthcoming until we get Hanoi's attention and then let them know that our patience is very nearly exhausted.

In conclusion, I congratulate those great heroes, those brave men who volunteered to go to North Vietnam in search of their comrades who are being held by the Communists.