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Mr. Ronald Nessen  
Press Secretary  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D. C. 20500

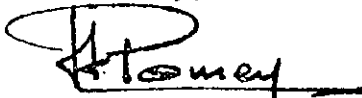
Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find my Statement of Position on the Vietnamese situation. In view of President Ford's stand in regards to the latter, it appeared appropriate to me to submit this paper to him through you.

I have only to contribute a short period of my life spent with the Vietnamese people as a Special Forces Adviser, as much information on the subject of as can be gathered by a private citizen, and, equally as important perhaps, my awareness of that which the United States represents to the rest of the world stemming from my foreign background and upbringing.

Daring to assume that many of my fellow Americans silently share my position; that many more would be receptive to it were they exposed to the full perspective of the Vietnamese situation; that, a majority could be swayed to take this position were their President to present it to them; that the President does silently share at this time much of this position; and, lastly, that the voice of one citizen--even though not representing the most popular or politically advantaged view at this time--can still hope to influence--however infinitesimally--to encourage--in however small a way--the President: I submit my thoughts and convictions to your care in the hope that they will find their way to the President's desk.

Sincerely,



Jean-François J. Romey

Enclosure

## A STATEMENT OF POSITION

### ON U. S. POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The Vietnam situation as it faces the American people in all its horror and misery is not a matter of coming to the aid of or of abandoning a government, corrupt or otherwise.

The question this situation presents to us is actually whether we can sit on the sidelines, if you will, and calmly watch innocent people being slaughtered by invasion forces as they flee their homes, as their country, our ally, is being ruthlessly conquered.

Regardless of one's attitude at our original involvement in Viet Nam, we cannot change the fact that we were involved, even immersed, in the situation; and, more gravely, that we involved a majority of South Vietnamese who are now tainted by everything they did, every effort they made with us. I say more gravely for them because we are now safely here and they are still there, condemned by their very involvement with us to the greatest danger for themselves and their families.

Now, today, at this critical hour, by virtue of not only that involvement--which by itself should suffice as a moral obligation--but by virtue also of an obligation to an ally, we must accept a share of the responsibility for the present plight of South Vietnam and its people commensurate with our power and our influence--and that is the lion's share.

Acceptance of this responsibility requires more than a sympathetic mea culpa gesture while we sit on our hands, worry about our comforts, blame history five Presidents and twelve Congresses, express dismay about a few thousands of our countrymen still in Vietnam and who chose to be there, and let a few heroic or kind-hearted volunteers--pilots, nurses, adoptive parents--do it all for us in the hope that their work and our rationalizing will absolve us.

Is this not reminiscent of a few decades back--or, as usual, do we forget history? Do we forget how other Allies sat on their hands and talked to each other--and mostly to themselves--as one of them was being invaded, raped, and burned: as Poland was being given the same treatment received today by South Vietnam?

We virtually blackmailed the South Vietnamese into entering into this last peace treaty in Paris at our side, so that we could escape the position that we found ourselves in; so that we could get our prisoners back, when theirs were and are still rotting in Communist jails; so that we could leave a mess we greatly contributed in creating by the total mismanagement of this war from our end, to them. And now that this treaty has become obviously meaningless to the North Vietnamese invaders, we are still using its paper existence to avoid further involvement.

Would we stand by and watch East Germany invade West Germany, North Korea invade South Korea? Is the answer so obvious now that we can watch this happen in Viet Nam and look the other way?

A notion in this country prior to the treaty was that the North Vietnamese and their southern backers, the Viet Cong, were considered to be very popular with all Vietnamese, including the South Vietnamese. This notion further stated that Communist rule would bring welcome changes in the South Vietnamese people's daily lives.

It would appear from current events that this notion was a rather ill-conceived one. It appears obvious now--if, for many of us, it did not before--that in spite of the weaknesses and corruption and incompetence of the Thieu regime, the South Vietnamese people view the Communist forces as conquerors and invaders and certainly not as liberators. There is an obvious difference between the reaction of the South Vietnamese people to the Communists and the peoples of Europe's reaction to the Allied Forces whom they welcomed as liberators. While on the subject of Nazi-dominated Europe, should we remind those--some among us--who would have it that Communism is after all such a clean, healthy, organized way to run people's lives, especially Asians--example North Vietnam--that we did hear that argument before. Certainly clean, healthy, organized to a pin Nazi Germany made the other countries of Europe look sick in 1940, as her super-trained and endocrinated armies steamrolled across them all!

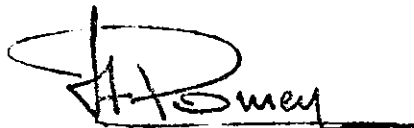
In thinking back to the days prior to the withdrawal of American forces from the Republic of Vietnam, I recall massive demonstrations mounted against that which was termed American "invasion, inhumane acts, and atrocities" against the people of that country. Now that the North Vietnamese forces have begun their invading and bloodletting, I ask where are these demonstrators who pictured themselves as the living conscience of America and the world; where are all those so avowedly and categorically opposed to war--any war. Or is it that as long as they, we precious Americans do not get shot at and do not have to shoot back everything is all right? I certainly think it commendable that we as a nation went on our knees to the Communists to get some of our POWs back. But, to thine own self be true, as once was said: it becomes commendable only, I propose, if we stay on our knees until all POWs are returned: the tens of thousands of South Vietnamese POWs still in enemy hands.

Atrocities: a favorite topic if one wants to lead to a lot of mud-slinging and name-calling between two warring factions. But since the other side, with the world's best-run and received propaganda, would have it that Americans committed so many atrocities against the Vietnamese peoples, North and South, a response here may be appropriate. To this I answer something already said: War is hell. And men in war do commit crimes, as they would if they could in civilian life; war just makes it easier for some people to realize their psychoses, their criminality. And, as all people in war, we have had and probably will always have our Calleys and others who dishonor their comrades, their country by acts so unspeakable that the best professional soldiers, most battle-hardened, are sickened by them. But while being no better as individuals than other men of other lands, we do not give our so-called invading armies written, detailed orders for the mass execution of "suspects" or "unreliables" or "deviationists"--orders which will be carried out through channels and according to blacklists drawn up by the local fifth columnists, Gestapo agents, or Viet-Cong Infrastructure...As to the atrociousness of bombing the enemy, was half the care taken by the Allies bombing Germany to cinders to avoid population centers as was taken by our Air Force over Hanoi and Haiphong? Although the fire-bombing of Dresden, the total destruction of Frankfurt was unnecessary cruelty, no one, or hardly anyone of good conscience in this country, or throughout the world for that matter, has raised a protest placard about it. This and many other phenomena we have witnessed for the past thirty years lead me to ask if it is because Nazism was a loser and Communism seems to be winning it is fine to knock the former mercilessly, but that the latter should be handled with kid gloves?

POSITION ON VIETNAM - 3

I propose that at this point, so critical in the history of South Vietnam and of the United States, we call upon the United Nations and ask that UN troops be committed immediately to the defense of South Vietnam against her invaders. I propose that the United States partake actively and decisively in this intervention.

I propose that in the likely case that the combined vote of the friends and allies of North Vietnam and of those eager to appease the Communist Block defeats this, our motion to help South Vietnam decisively, we present an ultimatum to Hanoi demanding it remove its forces from South Vietnamese territory immediately. I propose that we regain our stature as a friend, an ally, a world leader by putting ourselves on the line once and for all, trusting in the lesson of history which taught us that he or they who do not have the courage to stand up today will fall tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Roney". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "R".

Jean-François J. Roney  
Boston  
April 14, 1975