

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR

A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN VIETNAM / NEGOTIATION NOW

TO: National News Media

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Major funding by the U. S. of the new South Vietnamese land reform program, support for a broader U. S. policy for Asian land reform, and a request to U. S. A. I. D. for month-by-month reports on how the Vietnamese peasants are benefitting from the new law are the topics to be discussed with Senators, and Congressmen at a breakfast honoring two Americans who played an active role in the achievement of the newly enacted law in South Vietnam.

The breakfast is at 8:45 a.m. in Room G-219-221, in the New Senate Office Building. It is sponsored jointly by the National Committee for a Political Settlement in Vietnam and Senators Mike Gravel and Bob Packwood. Clark Kerr, chairman of the committee, will preside.

They will pay tribute to the work of Roy Prosterman, professor of law at the University of Washington and a ranking land reform expert in the U. S., and Robert Coate, California businessman and former Democratic State Chairman, for their work over the past 22 months in the U. S. and South Vietnam leading up to the enactment last week of what has been described as the most radical and revolutionary Asian land reform program of the century.

Contrary to widespread skepticism on the part of the press and some observers about the will and the ability of the South Vietnamese to carry out the program, Prosterman and Coate are more optimistic. They point to the drastically simplified administrative method of this plan, which is its chief advantage over other more cumbersome U. S. government measures offered in the past, and to the successful distribution of 200,000 acres of government owned land to peasants over the past year.

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