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10 February 1975

The Honorable Carl Albert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sir:

As a voter, I feel it appropriate to express my concern over the actions of the United States in relation to South Vietnam. As a non-military, volunteer physician taking care of Vietnamese civilians in Kontum province during 1971 to 1973, I personally experienced some of the tragic consequences of an ill conceived and poorly monitored American foreign policy.

With the current intensification of fighting in Vietnam, the United States is once again demonstrating a careless approach to a serious problem. The various threats, both direct and implied, coming from the State Department, the crucial timing of the visit of a high U.S. Air Force official to Saigon, and the ambiguous, yet provocative movements of the Seventh Fleet — all suggest the potential resumption of U.S. military action in Indochina. This clearly, is folly. You know, I know, and the North Vietnamese know, that the politician who votes for renewed participation of American citizens in military action in Southeast Asia is thereby ending his political career. Thus, what purpose is served by these threats, so costly in terms of American credibility?

Massive economic aid, furthermore, to the government of South Vietnam has demonstrated little effect other than the prolongation of immense suffering. Monetary assistance cannot generate national feeling. With our current domestic economic situation, it is imperative that alternative capital expenditures be assigned relative priorities based on rigorous assessment of our present and future goals as a nation.

Therefore:

I urge no further military or economic assistance be extended to the governments of South Vietnam, Laos, or the Khmer Republic.

I request a statement of the aims of American policy toward Indochina, including:

- a. specific objectives
- b. expected date of accomplishment of each
- c. a realistic estimate of the costs of each

On this I will not be silent. The frustrations and bitterness vented by the Watergate affair are by no means gone. The American people have tasted blood; they are once again in control of their own destiny, and they know it. The government of the United States would do well to heed the warnings of the last several years.

Respectfully,

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