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A PLEA FOR AN IMMEDIATE ARMISTICE IN
SOUTH VIETNAM

Barnes

Honorable Lyndon ~~Bayne~~ Johnson
White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

Pope Paul VI has just made a magnificent and inspiring plea for peace on his historic visit to the United States that was listened to throughout the world. This great and humble Spiritual leader did not mince words ^{when he} and said "No more war ^{or} Peace, it is peace, which must guide the destinies of people and of all mankind."

You, Mr. President, have involved this nation in an undeclared and unconstitutional war, in a civil conflict in South Vietnam and have escalated ^{it} into a naplam bombing war of North Vietnam, a third or fourth class power. This is a terrible responsibility for anyone person to assume without a constitutional declaration of war by Congress.

For years I have spoken out against every aspect of Communism at home and abroad and contributed to anti-Communist causes. I know war, its problems, heartbreaks, tragedies, and suffering first hand, and I know that Pope Paul is right and you are wrong.

I was a candidate on the Democratic ticket in a primary against you for U.S. Senator a number of years ago and now feel strongly that you have made a very grave mistake in escalating a war in North Vietnam by using saturation bombing tactics ^{that} result in the death of women and children who probably never heard of America.

Your undeclared war in South Vietnam without the consent of the American people and in opposition to the United Nations is playing directly into the hands of World Communism. This unconstitutional war is the stupidest and most useless in our history - ten thousand miles away where it has virtually no effect on our security. The Chinese hordes cannot get off the Asian mainland as long as our Navy controls the seas. -- Yet, Cuba, the cancer of Communism, is permitted to spread its evil propaganda and activities throughout Latin America and to build missile and submarine bases endangering our security.

Whether we win at South Vietnam or not, we lose in lives and billions of dollars. The best attainable is a stalemate to neutralize South Vietnam which could have been arranged

years ago without fighting. General MacArthur described the war on the Asian mainland as the height of folly - he used stronger language. Senator Robert Taft, just before he died, issued a statement opposed to sending a single American soldier into South East Asia as in the long run we would be bogged down in the swamps and jungles and be greatly outnumbered.

The use of napalm and the bombing of women and children promotes world Communism propaganda on a large scale, not only in Asia but throughout the world. What do you think the Pope and the United Nations think of such horrors.

Mr. President, most of the nations of the world look the other way at our napalm, gas and bombing tactics in Vietnam. More than 90% of the United Nations are opposed to your undeclared war.

It is sheer hypocrisy to compare this war with that in Korea, where the United Nations fought on our side and where the South Vietnam were united against Communism. We also had the advantage there of having our Navy in battle position off both the east and west coast of Korea.

Senator Kennedy, of New York, was right when he said that our approach to revolutionary war should be political. The French fought in Vietnam for a generation with huge losses because they thought the application of military force was all that was necessary instead of understanding the needs and the grievances of the people. Insurgency loses its popular character when met by political solutions.

I urge you in the name of Peace that Pope Paul VI has to dramatically requested of all nations to stop the war now, declaring an armistice and negotiating afterwards to obtain the best obtainable honorable terms.

The people of South Vietnam have the right to self-determination and to decide their own destiny in an unfettered election whether they want to stop the war, become a neutralized nation and to elect a non-military government. There will be no peace under a military government in South Vietnam who never had it so good. If you continue to send more soldiers and greater and more destructive armaments to South Vietnam without a constitutional declaration of war and without the consent of the American people, you must assume the total responsibility for eventual success and victory there. If, instead the

casualties mount, the war drags on to a stalemate, and South Vietnam is devastated and ruined and its young men exterminated, it will not encourage other small nations to become the battle ground of Communism.

In case of such a tragic fiasco, as the one responsible, it might be your duty to resign but such actions would not be in the interest of the nation as the Vice-President, who is a former active leader of the ADA has followed your footsteps faithfully in the war in Vietnam.

You should concentrate your efforts to safeguarding the United States from Communism within and from the cancer of Communism at our door steps in Cuba, which is spreading rapidly throughout Latin America, and above all to declare an armistice immediately in South Vietnam before war tensions increase throughout the world.

Despite extensive propaganda and brainwashing the American people are beginning to question this mad venture of Internationalism gone mad; of policing South East Asia alone with American lives and our taxpayers money.

The American people, up to now, have had no voice in this war. The purpose of this letter is to stop the fighting before it turns into a game of Russian Roulette that might involve us in greater or even nuclear war.

Mr. President, you have the power to declare an armistice, to end the slaughter, and to stop war now, in accord with the admonition of Pope Paul VI in his world wide plea for Peace.

Wishing you every success,

DUDLEY TARTTON DOUGHERTY

DUDLEY DOUGHERTY

A Constitutional, Jeffersonian Democrat.

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