

U.S. PRESS REACTION

CHICAGO TRIBUNE editorial (11/4) -- "President Nixon had received the prudent counsel and knew he could count upon the support of Americans when he prepared last night's address to the nation, appealing for patience and unity as he moves to bring the Viet Nam war to an honorable end.

...We are confident that Americans who support Mr. Nixon greatly outnumber the anti-war demonstrators, whom the Communists embrace as allies."

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS (Scripps Howard) editorial (11/4) -- "President Nixon, in his speech on Vietnam last night, resisted heavy pressure and once again made the right decision by rejecting 'defeat' - a precipitate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

He has decided that we must carry on, at the cost of more casualties, to give the South Vietnamese a fighting chance of staving off a Communist takeover. With the North Vietnamese showing no sign of willingness to end the war on acceptable terms, Mr. Nixon had no honorable alternative.

...Constitutionally, he is more correct than the demonstrators in the street who dispute him. We believe he had no attractive paths and took the only right one."

BOSTON HERALD-TRAVELER editorial (11/4) -- "President Nixon last night offered the United States the leadership which Americans elected him to provide. There can be no question but that the nation will respond with the strength and support Mr. Nixon clearly needs and merits.

...This is the direction that has been chosen. It is the right direction. Never has an American President needed the nation's support more. Never has one deserved it more."

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR by David Lawrence (11/4) -- "Nixon has in mind the Vietnamization of the war. He has been seeking this all along, but he has not been able to demonstrate the meaning of that term as he can today. The Saigon government is well aware of Nixon's plans to withdraw American forces.

In a nutshell, therefore, the South Vietnamese will be fighting their own war and the United States will be helping them - not with manpower, but with money and supplies. This should satisfy those elements of American public opinion which have been ignoring the importance of the Vietnam settlement to the future of Asia and have been concentrating solely on getting American soldiers back home."

BALTIMORE SUN editorial (11/4) -- "Though last night he did not, as it had been anticipated that he might, announce new withdrawals, and though he properly declined to announce a schedule of future withdrawals which could only have helped the enemy in his military and diplomatic planning, he adhered to that policy with what seemed to be but a token threat that under certain circumstances he might indeed reverse it."

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR editorial (11/4) -- "Having laid this foundation, the President then made a dramatic appeal for the support of what he called 'the great silent majority of my fellow American' - that majority which wants to see this war ended, but not under conditions which would mock all of our sacrifices and suffering.

Does this great silent majority exist? We think so, and fervently hope so. If it does not, if the shrill and angry voices of the anti-war demonstrators really speak for America, then the President probably will lose his gamble and a tragic war will be hurried to a catastrophic conclusion."

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS editorial (11/5) -- "We think he delivered a masterly speech in a masterly manner - and that if he maintains this standard of performance it will be next to impossible for anybody now in sight to defeat him for reelection in 1972.

We also think that all Americans who love freedom and their country should back the President vigorously in his handling of the war effort."

WALL STREET JOURNAL editorial (11/5) -- "The President's proclaimed objective of turning over to the South Vietnamese is a sensible goal under the depressing circumstances. As Mr. Nixon reported, the alternatives are sharply limited and exceedingly dangerous.

...Despite the disappointment of the doves, his speech Monday was a good first step toward winning the necessary understanding in the only way a President can. That is, by keeping clear before the American people the real options and the actual record so far."

BALTIMORE SUN editorial (11/5) -- "President Nixon quite properly is looking to United States policy toward Asia after the war in Vietnam is ended, and is trying to devise a policy which will avoid the mistakes of the past four years. A fundamental mistake, as the President implied in his speech Monday night, was that 'in the previous administration we Americanized the war in Vietnam.' That is, American combat forces were sent in to do much of the fighting for South Vietnam. Mr. Nixon's response to this, as he said, now is to Vietnamize 'the search for peace.' That is, the United States proposes to withdraw its combat forces as it turns over the combat responsibilities to the South Vietnamese.

This offers a feasible way of ending the war so far as American combat operations are concerned. It is designed to make possible an orderly American withdrawal, moreover, even if efforts to negotiate a settlement remain in their present stalemate."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR by William H. Stringer (11/5) - "The November peace demonstrators are, most of them, idealistic peace-now people, not Mao conspirators. But they should be considering how they, in their idealism, would handle the rough Vietnam aftermath."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE editorial (11/5) -- " Mr. Nixon's speech was a solemn and persuasive appeal to the reasoned judgement of patriotic Americans, the 'great silent majority,' rather than the announcement of a new program. In the circumstances it was a courageous performance. If his plan succeeds, he said, what the critics say now will not matter; if it fails, anything he says then will not matter.

He rejects the 'easy way' - a precipitate withdrawal - and chose the 'right way' - withdrawal on a schedule as the South Vietnamese become strong enough to defend themselves. Speaking of the consequences of the 'easy way,' he said our allies would lose confidence in America and we would lose confidence in ourselves. Inevitable remorse and divisive recrimination would scar the spirit of the American people.

"Let us be united for peace," the President said. 'Let us also be united against defeat....North Viet Nam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that'."

LOS ANGELES TIMES editorial (11/5) -- "The President seeks patience and trust in his policies. He deserves both, and the majority of Americans seem prepared to grant him more time to effectuate his plan for disengagement."

PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN editorial (11/4) -- "He would not Mr. Nixon said, allow this country's policies to be determined by voices of the minority in the streets. He promised that a greater display of unity at home would increase the prospects of peace.

"Mr. Nixon thus spoke to those who have in the main supported him, but who might now be wavering. It is this group, the group he insists represents a majority, that he sought to influence last night.

"The liklihood is that he did, in a speech that was reasoned and sincere. It is likely that Mr. Nixon earned, from most Americans, at least a little more time to follow his timetable."

DETROIT NEWS editorial (11/4) -- . . . "the emphasis was shifted from the Johnson technique of offering a whole raft of peace alternatives to the North Vietnamese and then saying: 'It's now up to Hanoi.' The stress is now laid on our own patience and steadfastness, on the support of the great silent majority of Americans for our current effort to achieve a settlement. That means: 'It's now up to Americans.'"

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER editorial (11/5) -- "President Nixon summoned America to a new plateau of statesmanship and responsibility in his address Monday night on Vietnam.

" . . . The noblest aspect of the President's speech was his elevation of the Vietnam problem out of the quagmire of a rice-paddy war and placing it in the broader perspective of world peace in years to come.

" . . . The younger generations may not grasp the wisdom of these profound remarks. Others, old enough to remember the folly of appeasement and isolationism that preceded the disaster of World War II, will recognize in President Nixon's message fundamental truths that are likely to stand the test of time."

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER editorial (11/4) -- . . . "He was careful, sincere, and direct. He asked his people, for whom patience never has been a distinguishing characteristic, for time--time to get us out of the mess in Vietnam while assuring that when we do depart, South Vietnam will not remain as a slab of beef ready for butchering by the North Vietnamese. In an age when quitting is replacing honor as the principle that dictates our action, the United States is fortunate to have a President who operates according to Lincolnesque tenets of honor, no matter what the consequent tribulations may be."

. . . "But short of carrying the war to the North, he has committed himself to what seems to be the only possible plan to bring all--and we emphasize that he said all--the American boys home. Very well. The nation owes it to him to give him time to clean up the dirty linen of the past two administrations. Richard Nixon is a good man, and strong. And he is right. Those Americans to whom he referred as 'the great silent majority' must not allow the disciples of defeat to break him down."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR editorial (11/5) -- "Clearly, the Nixon speech came as a bitter disappointment to millions of Americans who sincerely and honorably believe that the only way to end the war is to end it at once-period. They will, as is their moral right, maintain every conceivable pressure to that end. But we still hold that the President's course, with whatever further steps he can take to speed it up, is the best under the present difficult circumstances, and is consistent with nationally assumed obligations."

WISCONSIN ST. JOURNAL (11/4) -- editorial -- "The President of the United States has made a powerful case for his sincerity in seeking peace. The secret efforts to obtain peace, the letter to Ho Chi Minh, the withdrawals of men--all his efforts are in the direction of peace.

"He has a plan for peace. All he asks is support--not just for Richard M. Nixon, but for the President who was duly elected to lead all the people.

"He deserves that support."

MANCHESTER UNION LEADER (11/5) -- editorial -- "President Nixon delivered a very well reasoned and sensible speech on his plans to end the Vietnamese conflict."

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH (11/4) -- editorial -- The President was not at all perturbed by the possibility that the label 'Johnson's war' would be changed to 'Nixon's war.' He said 'the question is, now that we are in the war, how can we best end it?'

"Mr. Nixon believes the best way to reach war's end is by preserving the honor and dignity of both the Vietnamese and the Americans.

"We trust Hanoi will take seriously the reaffirmation of this American faith."

INDIANAPOLIS STAR (11/5) -- editorial -- "The President's plan of a calculated withdrawal does not depend on what Hanoi does or does not do. It depends on this nation's actions alone. It is a way out that does not compromise United States commitments to South Vietnam. It can prevent a Communist victory in a strategic area of Southeast Asia while at the same time avoiding a bigger, more deadly war.. It is a plan that deserves the support of the American people, of the nation's representatives in Congress and of those who may be planning protest marches and 'moratoriums.'"

BIRMINGHAM NEWS (11/4) -- "President Nixon made a stirring appeal last night for national unity in support of peace in Vietnam--not the false kind of 'peace' which the advocates of surrender have taken to the streets to urge, but a real peace which will permit the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future and the people of the United States to turn their thoughts and their energy to the pressing problems which cry out for attention here at home.

. . . "We hope that Mr. Nixon's candid, lucid review of the history of our involvement in Vietnam and of our efforts--so far unreciprocated--to achieve a settlement will persuade the great silent majority to whom he appealed directly of the absolute need for support for his carefully crafted 'plan for peace.'

. . . "He outlined a plan for peace--with honor. And he asked for support.

"Can any American with the interests of this country at heart fail to give it?"

ORLANDO SENTINEL (11/5/69) -- "President Nixon didn't come up with anything new in his frustrating efforts to find peace in Vietnam.

"But, then, why should he? The President was already on solid ground and could not have made further concessions to the enemy without endangering our fighting men and our allies.

. . . "We must get out of this undeclared war as quickly as feasible but in doing so we must leave our South Vietnamese allies in a position to defend themselves and to decide what kind of a government they want.

"This is what Mr. Nixon told the world, and he is right."

SALISBURY, MD. DAILY TIMES -- (11/5) -- "President Nixon inherited the war which now threatens to divide the nation. He has moved to change the direction of the effort without risking disaster to our men still overseas. He has shown the enemy the way to peace if it wants peace.

"We think he is at this time entitled to the people's support as he tries to unwind the war."

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER editorial (11/5) -- "It falls to the organizers of this month's demonstrations in Washington to begin channeling their anger and frustrations toward Hanoi's intransigence, or, failing that, to concede the validity of what many Americans already suspect -- that their purpose is not so much peace as it is the defeat and humiliation of what they perceive to be the warmongering, imperialistic establishment within the United States.

What the President tried to tell them Monday night is that the establishment they seek to humble turns out to be the people."

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS AND COURIER editorial (11/5) -- "Addressing himself to the 'great silent majority of my fellow Americans,' President Nixon made a low-key but powerful plea for support of his Vietnam policy. We believe he should have that support from Congress and the people."

...In our judgment, the millions of middle-of-the-road Americans can and should endorse the President's handling of the difficult Vietnam situation. The United States has only one President at a time. He bears the responsibility for the nation's safety. The President is entitled to the support of the people."

BALTIMORE NEWS AMERICAN editorial (11/5) -- "...in essence, Nixon's message to all is clear. He needs the support of the American people to extricate the U.S. from an unprecedented predicament and to maintain the faith in the U.S. held by millions throughout the world.

'Let us be united for peace,' the President said. 'Let us also be united against defeat. Because let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the U.S. only Americans can do that'."

PITTSBURG PRESS editorial (11/4) -- "President Nixon, in his speech on Vietnam last night, resisted heavy pressure and once again made the right decision by rejecting 'defeat' -- a precipitate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

... 'As President,' he reminded the country, 'I hold the responsibility for choosing the best path to that goal (of a just and lasting peace) and then for leading our nation along it.'

There are no attractive paths to peace in Vietnam. But of the paths available, Mr. Nixon chose the right one."

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION editorial (11/5) -- "The speech was a carefully written restatement of the Nixon view on Vietnam. It outlined the terrible problems involved in attempting to end this cruel and messy war, this war which has so divided the American people.

In our view, Mr. Nixon stated many of the problems accurately, without attempting to minimize or to inflate them with the dubious rhetoric used by many earlier spokesmen on Vietnam."

KNOXVILLE JOURNAL editorial (11/5) -- "Nixon appears to be on the brink of one of the most dramatic achievements in the history of U.S. foreign policy. If his grand design succeeds he will have replaced the blundering of the past with enlightenment. He will have thwarted Communist ambitions in Asia and perhaps the rest of the world...

...Nixon said 'no' to the mob. He said 'yes' to America's silent majority.

We are convinced that the President is right. We firmly believe that given half a chance his policy will succeed, and succeed in a striking manner."

Therefore, we urge America's silent majority to become less silent. We urge a show of support for the President at this critical point."