

THE RESUMPTION OF BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM

"We cannot expect that a conflict which has raged so bitterly for so long will be quickly or easily resolved. . . We are concerned that unless we can halt or reverse the escalation of the last months it will become increasingly difficult to achieve a further pause, a cease-fire and meaningful negotiations. " -- Letter to the President by 76 Democratic Congressmen.

"I do not believe that we will make any critical point, solve any dilemma or move along the way to an honorable settlement now by resumed or by larger bombings. " -- Senator John Sherman Cooper (R. , Ky.), Jan. 26.

LAST SUNDAY NIGHT PRESIDENT JOHNSON BEGAN AGAIN TO BOMB NORTH VIETNAM. By doing so he shows that the executive branch of our government is set on forcing us into wider and perhaps unending war. By doing so he has again denied our elected representatives the exercise of their reason and their power -- denying us our representation.

CONGRESS HAD JUST CALLED FOR DEBATE: Last Tuesday, Senators Fulbright and Mansfield urged there be no further bombing, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urged that they be consulted before such bombing. On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, many senators publically opposed further bombing: Fulbright, Mansfield, Kennedy, Aiken, Jorden, Morton, Clark, Nelson, McCarthy, Bartlett, Metcalf, Hartke, Neuberger, Church, Burdick, Proxmire, Young, Gruening, Morse, McGovern, Williams, Gore, Moss, -- twenty-three in all.

On Friday Fulbright and other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee challenged the legality of the war and of Johnson's role in it.

On Saturday Morse presented resolutions to withdraw Johnson's war authorization and to institute "a full and complete investigation" of the war.

HEARINGS WERE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY

On Sunday night President Johnson began again to bomb North Vietnam.

At a time when uncertainty and criticism were increasing among Americans, when many of us were beginning to question -- if we had not done so before -- the common sense of failing to agree to negotiate with the Viet Cong, when many were questioning the cost of the war to our domestic well-being, when many were questioning its cost in lives both Vietnamese and American, both soldier and civilian, when many saw no possible military solution which did not run the great and fearful risk of a general Asian war with China or a million American troops in Vietnam alone -- at such a time the President seems to have increased the difficulty of bringing about peace through any other means than annihilation -- that of the Vietnamese and perhaps the Cambodians and Laotians and perhaps the Chinese and perhaps that of ourselves.

Will we have peace through war? Will we have negotiations by giving the North Vietnamese increased reason to fight? Will we contain China by threatening her allies and her borders?

Johnson was not given such power by the Constitution. Congress now questions both his power and its use. Those who elected him did not think him such a man as he has proven himself. He is as yet unchecked.

What can we do? Inform our representatives of our concern. Elect to office those who hold our views. Join and become active in organizations for peace. Attempt to discover and remedy the flaw in us or our system that allowed the war to happen.

WHATEVER WE DO, WE MUST DO IT NOW.

THE TIME HAS COME

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