

**The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Wagner College, April 2, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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What Controversy  
Achievement or maintenance  
Building a Better World  
7 peace

Old myths & New Realities  
New myths & Old Realities

FORD SPEECH FOR PRESENTATION AT WAGNER COLLEGE, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1966

VIETNAM--mere mention of that unfortunate country immediately evokes a grim picture of death, destruction, and desolation.

(VI-ET-NAM)

VIETNAM--the uttering of those three syllables immediately focuses attention on the problems that lie at the heart of United States foreign policy--how best to meet the ever-pressing challenge of world communism and help satisfy the rising expectations of long-suffering peoples.

The struggle in Vietnam is, of course, twofold. It is a war that must be fought on two broad fronts--the military and the social. The military struggle cannot really be won unless the basic economic and social needs of the people can be met.

Republicans agree with the avowed objectives of the Administration on Vietnam--to thwart Communist aggression so the South Vietnamese can live in freedom and independence. I agree with efforts to achieve this kind of a settlement at the conference table. I agree, too, that we must accept the results of any free, supervised South Vietnamese elections following a settlement at the conference table--whatever those results might be. However, I emphasize that the elections must be free and carefully supervised.

I am firmly opposed to any proposal that representatives of the National Liberation Front--which is just that, a front--be given seats in a coalition government to be imposed on the South Vietnamese.

~~I can't understand why President Johnson has not repudiated this type of settlement, as Vice President Humphrey has done.~~

(MORE)



WAGNER COLLEGE SPEECH - FOREIGN POLICY

While supporting the President generally on Vietnam, ~~we~~ Republicans feel it our duty as the loyal opposition to point to weak spots in Administration handling of that situation:

*Ground War*

1. We are continuing to pour more and more men into Vietnam and yet we are not making fully effective use of our conventional air and sea power. ~~There~~ are plans in the Pentagon to increase our troop commitment in Vietnam to as much as 300,000 or 400,000 from the present ~~225,000~~ <sup>240,000</sup>. There is danger that if we try to match the enemy on a purely manpower basis, we will be drawn into a huge land war in Asia with Red China as the ultimate opponent. The most men we had in Korea at the height of the war there was 325,000.

*Honolulu*

2. The Administration has made many mistakes on the political scene in Vietnam, and the unrest that has followed has interfered greatly with proper prosecution of the war by the Vietnamese government. ~~It may be~~ <sup>I believe</sup> that President Johnson's quickie conference with Prime Minister Ky at Honolulu was instrumental in fomenting the troubles that currently are shaking the Ky government.

*Blame*

3. We are critical, too, of the constant attempts by President Johnson to lay the Vietnam war at the door of his two predecessors in office--President Eisenhower and the late President Kennedy. We all know that President Johnson has made decisions while in office that have greatly magnified the United States presence in South Vietnam until ~~now we~~ <sup>we recently had</sup> have "Yankee Go Home" demonstrations there. I am not saying American help should have been withheld. I am simply saying the President should own up to the fact that this is an undeclared war which HE is running as the elected commander-in-chief.

(MORE)

WAGNER COLLEGE SPEECH - FOREIGN POLICY

I might also point out that U. S. forces now are spread <sup>extremely thin elsewhere</sup> ~~thin~~ in the world because of our heavy involvement in Vietnam. Yet Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara contends that divisions which have been depleted by deployment of men to Vietnam are stronger than ever. I find that kind of statement difficult to fathom.

There also has been a continuous shift of men and materiel from Europe to ~~We must thwart Communist aggression in Vietnam. No Republican believe~~ Vietnam over a period of more than 18 months. As a result, our combat readiness in Europe currently is at a lower level than at any time since before the Berlin ~~that 1948 when ground forces are dispatched there, the President should~~ crisis of 1961.

~~paraphrase had to advise from his Joint Chiefs of Staff. That advice would~~  
Clearly, we were not ready in February, 1965, to make the tremendous step up ~~result in air and seapower which would appreciably reduce the enemy's~~ in aid that we have since given South Vietnam. The consequence has been an ~~ability to fight. The follow on result would be that fewer Americans would have~~ imperiling of our position in Europe, ~~accentuated~~ accentuated by France's impending ~~to be sent to Vietnam and ordered into battle~~ withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Let me talk now about the foreign aid program because, as I mentioned earlier, a campaign to win over the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese is vital in our continuing struggle with world communism. Let me interject here, too, that our struggle with world communism is a ceaseless one only because the big Communist powers will it so.

I have seen films depicting the efforts of our people in Vietnam to work with the South Vietnamese in harvesting rice crops and promoting good health and sanitation programs. Many of our people are doing an excellent job, but the total effort falls far short of the mark.

This is particularly true in the area of health and medicine. I can tell you on the basis of a first-hand report to me by an American surgeon who recently completed a voluntary tour of duty among South Vietnamese



WAGNER COLLEGE SPEECH - FOREIGN POLICY

about in considering a possible U. S. policy change involving Red China because the Red Chinese insist on being shut off from the rest of the world.

It may be that exchange programs, carefully screened for jokers and against one-sidedness, would be useful in acquainting Red China with the Free World in general and with America in particular.

But if Humphrey is talking about diplomatic recognition of Red China in the near future and for admission of Red China to the United Nations, then he is pursuing a sadly mistaken course.

What is involved in trying to get Red China to adopt ~~some~~ the kind of "peaceful co-existence" policy theoretically being pursued by the Soviet Union in its relations with the U. S.?

If we can believe the Red Chinese rulers, they don't want U. S. recognition or admission to the UN unless Taiwan's membership in the UN is withdrawn, the U. S. is branded by the UN as the aggressor in the Korean War, U. S. protection is withdrawn from Formosa (Taiwan), and Formosa is surrendered to Red China.

The Republican view of Red China is that we must continue to contain her and to frustrate by various means all her attempts to extend her sphere of influence in Asia. When I say "by various means," I am saying that open warfare is not necessarily the tool that must be employed. War is always the last resort of a peace-loving nation like ours.

It is ridiculous to talk about U. S. recognition of Red China or admission of Red China to the UN because we certainly are not going to meet the aforementioned conditions laid down by the Red Chinese. We are not going to abandon Formosa to them.

Let Carter  
achieve a  
peace in  
Bosnia  
in Balkan World

Old myths & New Realities  
New myths & Old Realities

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WORD SPEECH FOR PRESENTATION AT WAGNER COLLEGE, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1966

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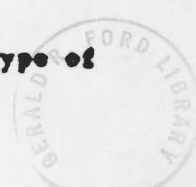
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1. We are continuing to pour more and more men into Vietnam and yet we are not making fully effective use of our conventional air and sea power. There are plans in the Pentagon to increase our troop commitment in Vietnam to as much as 300,000 or 400,000 from the present 235,000. There is danger that if we try to match the enemy on a purely manpower basis, we will be drawn into a huge land war in Asia with Red China as the ultimate opponent. The most men we had in Korea at the height of the war there was 225,000.

*malabar*

2. The Administration has made many mistakes on the political scene in Vietnam, and the unrest that has followed has interfered greatly with proper prosecution of the war by the Vietnamese government. It may be that President Johnson's quickie conference with Prime Minister Ky at Honolulu was instrumental in fomenting the troubles that currently are shaking the Ky government.

*and*

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