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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
November 22, 1967

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., on The Floor of The House, Wednesday, November 22, 1967.

Mr. Speaker: The distinguished majority leader of the House. Mr. Albert, charged Monday night in Atlanta, Georgia, that the massive anti-Vietnam demonstration staged at the Pentagon Oct. 21 was "basically organized by international communism" and that "the marchers included every communist and communist sympathizer in the United States who was able to make the trip."

Mr. Speaker, this statement apparently is based on the kind of information given orally to Republican leaders of the House by the President at a White House meeting after the Pentagon demonstration. I presume the same information was made available to the Democratic leaders. I subsequently urged that the White House make public the information it has on the true nature of the so-called peace demonstration at the Pentagon. As a result, the Attorney General of the United States visited me in my office and argued against release of the information.

I believed then and I believe now that the American people should be given full information on the degree of communist participation in the anti-American policy demonstration so that the people may judge just how deep or widespread anti-Vietnam War sentiment is in this country.

If the evidence in the hands of the Executive Branch of our government indicates manipulation of the peace movement in this country by Hanoi, then the propaganda impact of such demonstrations will be lessened and perhaps destroyed. This would be a highly beneficial result, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, one of the national news magazines has quoted the Secretary of State as saying that the release of this information would trigger a new wave of McCarthyism in this country. I dislike taking issue with the distinguished Secretary of State, but I believe the American people are now mature enough to receive such information and to react without hysteria.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the distinguished Majority Leader of the House has made charges of a most serious nature regarding the communist role in the demonstration at the Pentagon, I urge that the President order a

(more)



full report made to the American people on the extent of communist participation in organizing, planning and directing the disgraceful display which took place at the Pentagon last Oct. 21. Such a report will be most helpful and constructive to all Americans. In addition, such a disclosure would be beneficial to the well-intentioned Americans who participated in this demonstration not knowing who had organized the demonstrations at the Pentagon and elsewhere throughout the free world.

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E X C E R P T S from an

Address of Rep. Carl Albert, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
before the annual meeting of the Cotton Producers Association
in Atlanta, Georgia, November 20, 1967

W H Y V I E T N A M ?

Undoubtedly, two weeks ago, most of you through your newspaper or television became aware of the so-called Peace March whose participants erupted in violence in our national Capitol while attempting to close down the Pentagon. These people were ostensibly expressing their right to dissent---a right our Republic does not question. No doubt, there were many well-meaning citizens among them who have honest differences of opinion with the Administration, but in my judgment, we would be naive to think that these marchers included only those who have a distaste for war. The group certainly was basically organized by international communism, and the marchers included every communist and communist sympathizer in the United States who was able to make the trip. It is passing strange that on the very day this protest was made in Washington, similar demonstrations took place in all communist countries, in Latin America, Europe, and even in Australia whose troops are in battle in Vietnam. Of course, the common denominator, the common organizer of all these events is the communist world wide apparatus. It is a strange coincidence that counter demonstrations in support of the struggle for liberty in South Vietnam did not occur in various countries as they did in the United States.