

Bomb Halt Urged by Kennedy

Also Proposes
Troop Pullout

By U.S., Hanoi

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WORCESTER, Mass.,
Aug. 21—Sen. Edward M.
Kennedy (D-Mass.) today
called for an unconditional
halt in the bombing of
North Vietnam and a sig-
nificant decrease this year
of U.S. military activity and
military personnel in South
Vietnam.

These steps—which Ken-
nedy said should be initiated
“as soon as possible”—were
part of a broad four-point pro-
posal to end the Vietnam war,
which Kennedy termed “the
tragedy of our generation.”

The suggestions were made
in a nationally televised
speech which Kennedy himself
said marked his resumption of
public life after a ten-week
period of mourning following
the assassination of his brother,
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

“There is no safety in hid-
ing,” Kennedy said in answer
to those who had suggested
“for safety’s sake . . . I retire
from public life.” Instead, he
told the hushed audience of
1000 that filled Holy Cross
University’s Kimball Hall,
“like my brothers before me I
pick up a fallen standard . . .
I shall try to carry forward
that special commitment to
justice, to excellence, and to
courage that distinguished
their lives.”

Kennedy departed from his
prepared text to restate that
he would not run for office
this year.

His proposals for Vietnam
came at a time when Adminis-
tration hawks and anti-Adminis-

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istration doves are struggling
over a Democratic Party plat-
form.

He suggested the bombing
halt be followed by negotia-
tions with Hanoi for “the mu-
tual withdrawal from South
Vietnam of all foreign forces,
both allied and North Viet-
namese.” Along with the with-
drawal, Kennedy said, the U.S.
should offer “whatever help
we can give to the South Viet-
namese in the building of a
viable political, economic and
legal structure that will not
promptly collapse upon our
departure.”

In making his proposal to
end the war, Kennedy firmly
denounced the present Saigon
regime in the bluntest terms.
At one point he referred to
the “overwhelming incompe-
tence and corruption of our
South Vietnamese allies—a
government that has consist-
ently proved incapable or un-
willing to meet the needs of
its own people, a government
that has demanded ever more
money, more American lives
to be poured into the swamp
of their failure.

“We, to our sorrow, have
met almost every demand,”
Kennedy added.

He suggested that this pol-
icy be changed by saying,
“The Government in Saigon
must not be given a veto over
our course in Paris, our cessa-
tion of the bombing, or our
mutual withdrawal of troops.”

The Massachusetts Senator
did not, however, limit his
Vietnam criticism to the Sai-
gon Government alone. He
said that U.S. hopes for an
end to the war “have found-
ered in a morass of miscalcu-
lation and self-deception.”

Though Kennedy said he
was not speaking for partisan
interests, he did pick up a
scene from his late brother’s
campaign that offered little
comfort to the candidacy of
Vice President Humphrey.

After praising the “new poli-
tics of citizen participation” in
primaries and party caucuses,
Kennedy said, “It would be
tragic now if all the dedicated
efforts of those who worked in
both parties for change should
count for nothing in the final
choice of policies presented to

the electorate in November"

He also took a swipe at the new campaign emphasis toward law and order being pressed by Republican presidential nominee Richard Nixon. "We cannot let the new leadership of this country," he said, "be swept into office on a tide of fear."

Though he voiced concern about crime, violence and disorder, Kennedy said he was troubled that "guns and gas are being stockpiled . . . the basic causes of crime and riots—bad schools and housing, no jobs and inadequate passion for justice—these are being neglected."

A portion of his speech detailed clear differences not only with Administration leaders such as President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, but also with Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.).

To the Johnson argument that a bombing halt made without reasonable response would cost American lives, Kennedy cited Defense Secretary Clark Clifford's recent statement that the bombing had not reduced the movement of North Vietnamese men and material into the South.

To the Rusk argument that we must meet our commitment, Kennedy said "few nations have given to another what we have given to South Vietnam. With all we have done . . . surely it is clear that a government with any desire or ability to meet the needs of its own people would have

triumphed long ago."

By suggesting mutual withdrawal, Kennedy bypassed the McCarthy demand for a coalition government including the National Liberation Front. Under his plan, Kennedy said, "neither Hanoi nor Washington would try in Paris to either require or rule out a coalition government."

He did add, however, that U.S. withdrawal would spur the Saigon regime "to broaden its base, increase its appeal and negotiate an accommodation with the National Liberation front."

In another brief departure from his prepared text, Kennedy made reference to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, which he termed "an affront to decency."

Though drafts of today's speech had been seen by former aides of his brothers—such as Ted Sorensen and Frederick G. Dutton—the basic ideas were those of Kennedy and his administrative assistant, David Burke, who together had made an inspection trip to South Vietnam within the past year. The speech was finally completed this morning after a late night drafting session at the Kennedy home in McLean, Va.

Throughout his delivery of the speech, Kennedy's expression hardly changed and his voice remained firm and steady. It was a far cry from the emotional delivery of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy. The entire speech was bare of humor.