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House Members Oppose Vietnam Troop Boost

House members yesterday began voicing their opposition to any plans for sending more U.S. troops to South Vietnam. One lawmaker introduced a resolution that would put Congress on record against such a step.

Rep. William Moorhead (D-Pa.) said consideration of his resolution would allow Congress to participate in the decision-making process now believed going on within the Administration.

Reported troop increases under consideration range from 50,000 to 206,000 above the 525,000 American servicemen that are programmed to be in Vietnam by June 30.

Opposition was not confined to Democrats. Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.) told the House he was against sending any more troops and that the policy of "endless escalation" should make way for a new look at U.S. policy in Asia.

But Rep. Samuel Stratton (D-N.Y.) said it was obvious more troops would have to be sent to Vietnam and that if they were to be at all effective "they must get over there fast"—even if it means calling up some reserves.

Rep. Thomas Pelly (R-Wash.) said that if a decision is made to give Gen. William Westmoreland, allied commander in South Vietnam, more men, they should be

taken from the 30,000 U.S. troops stationed in Western Europe. Pelly said the U.S. anti-ballistic missile defense is sufficient to control Communist aggression there.

Moorhead, whose resolution was promptly endorsed by Rep. William Ryan (D-N.Y.) told the House the country is at a crossroads where it could either increase its military involvement or change its objectives and at least contain that involvement.

"This is a basic and fundamental policy decision about war and peace in which the American people through their elected Representatives should participate," Moorhead said. "Not since the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in August, 1964, has Congress been given a chance to participate in similar fundamental decisions about Vietnam."