

Agnew Calls U.S. Pullout 'Immoral'

NEW YORK, May 25 (UPI) — Vice President Spiro Agnew, in accepting an award as father of the year, today defended American involvement in Vietnam, saying that it would be "downright immoral" for the United States to abandon that country.

Agnew, one of seven fathers honored at a luncheon, said the so-called new morality of American contemporary society was "just a cheap, easy rationale for doing whatever you damn well please." And he said the United States was no more immoral fighting Communists in Vietnam than it was in fighting Nazi Germany.

Agnew severely criticized the new morality of youth, then linked this to the U.S. role in Vietnam.

"The fundamental principles of morality have not changed through the centuries," Agnew said. "Their unshakeable logic provides the framework that separates man from animal — an awareness of a higher motivation than the drive of the loins of the stomach — a curb on envy, greed and hatred."

Of the war, Agnew said: "I find it strange that many ... now insist that we abandon South Vietnam to its assailant. I find it more than strange. I find it downright immoral. For I believe it is immoral to turn a deaf ear to the pleas of the weak and the helpless under attack by a criminal — whether that criminal is a knife-wielding individual or a tank-deploying nation."

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