

Ford Says Russia Exploits Pacifists

THE WASHINGTON POST
Saturday, June 6, 1970 A 11
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Associated Press

House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.) said yesterday the Soviet Union's calculated exploitation of American antiwar sentiment could eliminate the United States as a global power without a shot being fired.

The growing pacifist mood over Vietnam, Ford said, has spawned a new isolationism and prompted Americans to think it "abhorrent to take great risks involved in acting like a global power."

This, he said, is playing into the hands of Soviet strategists whose "objective has always been the same—to destroy the United States' will to resist."

In a speech at graduation exercises of the National War College at Ft. McNair, Ford cited the Prussian military theorist, Von Clausewitz, who wrote the purpose of war is not the physical destruction of the enemy but the destruc-

tion of the enemy's will to resist.

"It is in Indochina that the Soviet Union has come closest to destroying the U.S. will to resist," Ford said.

"We have seen a rise in pacifist sentiment, skillfully exploited by American subversives and revolutionaries. We have seen continuing demands that U.S. military spending be cut below the point of marginal risk," he added.

"A strong wave of neo-isolationism has swept over a segment of the American people— notably many of our college students and some members of the United States Congress.

"The basis for the new isolationism is the growing feeling among the American people that the game has never been worth the candle in Vietnam," he said.

However, he said, Ameri-



GERALD FORD

... warns at war college

cans should remember that in Vietnam the United States has been at war with Russia by proxy.

The Kremlin has sought to make Vietnam a Communist bridgehead from which new offensive operations could be launched against non-Communist states, he said.