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Listen, America: VIETNAM IS CALLING

The fate of Vietnam will be decided in the next several days—here in America.

In the two years since the Paris Agreement, the South Vietnamese Army has stood and fought in a thousand battles with the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Since 1973, the North Vietnamese have flagrantly violated the terms of the Paris Agreement, sending in hundreds of thousands of men, at least 400 tanks and 1,000 artillery pieces. Nevertheless, the South Vietnamese held their ground.

A few weeks ago, confronted with an invasion by almost the entire North Vietnamese Army and weakened by growing shortages of equipment, ammunition, fuel and spare parts, the South Vietnamese command decided to shorten its defense lines by pulling back from the Central Highlands and the Northern provinces. Their decision was strongly influenced by the demoralizing prospect of sharply declining American aid and interest in Vietnam.

The withdrawal was hastily executed with undeniably disastrous consequences. Some Americans began to ask whether the South Vietnamese Army still had the will to fight.

That question has now been answered. The tenacious and heroic resistance now being offered at Xuan Loc and other points proves that the South Vietnamese Army *does* have the desire to remain free of communist control. The desperate flight of over one million refugees from the advancing communist armies demonstrates this fact beyond any doubt.

All Americans have been deeply moved by the plight of the refugees, especially the helpless women and children. Humanitarian efforts have sprung up spontaneously to help the orphans, the homeless and the destitute.

But all these humanitarian gestures will have little meaning if the communists take over Vietnam.

As one Vietnamese told the Washington Post, the orphan airlift was "a nice humanitarian gesture . . . But what about the millions of orphans-to-be whose parents are going to be executed by the communists?"

The ultimate humanitarian act is sufficient U.S. military and economic aid to the South Vietnamese so that they can maintain their freedom.

Our own torch of freedom was first lit almost 200 years ago, at places like Valley Forge. But the Spirit of '76 could not survive by itself. It needed help from friends and allies.

Thanks to the generous and faithful support of our ally, France, which provided money, materiel, troops, even a navy, a nation of freedom-loving people was born.

As we approach our 200th anniversary, do we want to mark that holiday by denying the South Vietnamese the same freedom—not for a lack of will on their part, but through a lack of adequate support on our part?

The American government and the American people have never been more directly involved in any foreign policy decision than today in Vietnam. Vietnam is calling us. What will our answer be?

We ask the Congress and the people to consider above all the human cost of a communist victory.

Vietnam is calling . . . asking for our help . . . asking us to fulfill our word . . . asking us to enable her people, not the communists, to decide their future.

What will our answer be?

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