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WORCESTER, MASS. AP - Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., breaking a 10-week silence, called Wednesday for an unconditional halt to the bombing of North Vietnam as part of a four-point program to end the Vietnam war.

He described the war as "the tragedy of our generation", and called for withdrawal of American troops and negotiation with Hanoi without regard for the desires of the South Vietnam government.

In his first political speech since the assassination of his brother, Robert, in June, Kennedy thanked those who have suggested he should retire "for safety's sake."

"But there is no safety in hiding," he said. "So today I assume my public responsibilities to the people of Massachusetts."

He did not say whether he would attend the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next week, but an aide said Kennedy had not yet decided.

Kennedy said American hopes to help the South Vietnamese help themselves have been buried "by the overwhelming incompetence and corruption of our South Vietnam ally."

Addressing a luncheon sponsored by the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce at Holy Cross College, Kennedy told the audience of about 1,200 that the United States should institute a four-point program for an end to the Vietnam War:

1. "To end unconditionally all bombing of North Vietnam;
2. "To then negotiate with Hanoi mutual withdrawal from South Vietnam of all foreign forces, both Allied and North Vietnam;
3. "To accompany this withdrawal with whatever help we can give to the South Vietnamese in the building of a viable political, economic and legal structure that will not promptly collapse upon our departure;

And, 4. "To demonstrate to both Hanoi and Saigon the sincerity of our intentions by significantly decreasing this year the level of our military activity and military personnel in the South."

Kennedy said that for the past 10 weeks he had concerned himself with his family, spending "much of my time with the sea, clearing my mind and spirit, putting the past behind."

He added: "Like my three brothers before me I pick up a fallen standard, sustained by the memory of our priceless years together, I shall try to carry forward that special commitment to justice, to excellence and to courage that distinguished their lives."

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He said he did not speak for partisan interests.

"I come as one who will not run for office this year," Kennedy said.

He said he would not suggest a cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam if it would cost American lives.

But he said that while the bombing of North Vietnam has slowed movement of men and material to the South, the secretary of defense confirmed last week that the bombing had not curtailed the movement.

"An end to the killing in Vietnam can never be negotiated as long as the bombing of North Vietnam continues," he said.

Kennedy said a withdrawal "create difficulties for the regime in South Vietnam, but it has yet to demonstrate either popular support or a desire to commit that nation fully to the struggle."

"The government in Saigon must not be given a veto over our course in Paris, our cessation of the bombing, or our mutual withdrawal of troops."

"If we follow the steps I have outlined today, I believe we can put this war behind us and reach out again for the country we know we can be."

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Kennedy departed from the prepared text of his 20-minute address to mention briefly the entry of Soviet troops into Czechoslovakia.

"The entry of Russian troops into Czechoslovakia is a retrogression into an age we had all hoped was past," he said.

"These events are an affront to decency and especially to a brave people who have demonstrated that they seek to be independent of the Soviet Union," he added.

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