

15 Oct 69

Kennedy Urges Ground Troops Pullout in Year

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said today the United States should announce "an irrevocable decision" to withdraw all ground combat troops from Vietnam within one year and other forces by the end of 1972.

He said the withdrawal timetable should be even more rapid if possible.

"To leave Vietnam only if there is progress in Paris, only if the battle subsides in the field, only if the army of the south is ready, places our men and our future in the hands of others," Kennedy said.

Those, in general terms, are the administration's requirements for new troop withdrawals.

In a speech for the World Affairs Council, Kennedy said the Nixon administration may already have in mind a pullout schedule along the lines he proposed.

If so, he said, it should be announced to press the Saigon government toward compromise with the Communists, and to spur the Paris peace negotiations.