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Mansfield To Push for Fast Pullout

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WASHINGTON —(UPI)— Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday that despite a narrowing gap between Congress and President Nixon on Vietnam troop withdrawals, he intends to keep fighting for his end-the-war amendment calling for a total pullout within six months.

Mansfield has praised Nixon's eight-point peace plan, which the President made public in a nationwide broadcast Tuesday night, as a "long step forward." But yesterday he expressed misgivings about one of its most crucial features.

"I do wish that he had separated the political and military aspects," Mansfield told newsmen. "The military aspect is the most important, and I still believe we must withdraw all of our forces from Indochina, not just South Vietnam, timed of course to the release of American prisoners and a full accounting of those missing in action."

Mansfield's formula would establish as "national policy" the total U.S. withdrawal within six months of enactment of his amendment, depending on release of American POWs.

The Senate passed some version of the Mansfield amendment three times last year, but it always either died in the House or was watered down merely to express "the sense of Congress." Whatever its version, the amendment is not binding on the President.