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Goodell, in a Farewell Speech, Warns of Bombing in Vietnam

By RICHARD L. MADDEN
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 — Senator Charles E. Goodell, in his farewell speech to the Senate on Vietnam, warned today that the resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam could bring a direct military confrontation with the Soviet Union or Communist China.

Mr. Goodell, a New York Republican who was defeated last month by a Conservative, James L. Buckley, said that "the scenario has now been set by the Administration for the resumption of an extended air war over North Vietnam." This he said, would "re-escalate the conflict, ignoring the tragic lessons of the sixties."

Referring to President Nixon's recent statements that military targets in North Vietnam would be bombed if United States reconnaissance planes were fired upon or if the Communist infiltration increased, Mr. Goodell said:

"I think we could then expect to see Soviet or Chinese pilots flying defensive combat missions over the North Vietnamese cities; or else see Soviet or Chinese-manned anti-aircraft missiles surround key North Vietnamese military installations and population centers.

"Any such development would convert the Vietnam tragedy into the one thing that it has not been thus far—a theater for a direct military confrontation of the great powers."

Chamber Nearly Empty

Mr. Goodell, who gained considerable political attention 15 months ago with a speech from the same back-row desk in the Senate advocating a fixed cut-off date for the withdrawal of American troops from Indochina, delivered his final remarks on Vietnam as a Senator to a nearly empty Senate chamber.

Several members of his staff

watched from the back of the chamber or from the galleries and only a few Senators stayed at their desks to listen. When Mr. Goodell finished, two Democrats—J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Alan Cranston of California—rose to praise him for his remarks.

At a news conference before his speech, Mr. Goodell said of the war in Vietnam: "I think we are in worse shape today than a year ago."

He said that the Nixon Administration had "cosmetized" the war with the reduction in American casualties, but added that within a few months "the cosmetics are going to wear off."

In his speech, Mr. Goodell appealed to other Senators who had co-sponsored a proposal for a fixed date of withdrawal from Vietnam to remain united and not allow the peace movement to become fragmented as various Democratic senators jockey for their party's Presidential nomination in 1972.

He also denounced the recent raid on the prisoner-of-war camp at Son Tay as "Hollywood-style commando tactics" that could place the lives of American prisoners "in deeper jeopardy," although he praised the "admirable bravery of the individual soldiers who participated" in the raid.

Mr. Goodell, who told reporters earlier that he was "seriously considering" several job offers from New York City law firms, said on the Senate floor that he intended to "have a role" in bringing the antiwar sentiment "to the forefront once again." He also said:

"I intend to remain a Republican, because I think it is very important that the views I hold be represented in the Republican party."