

Democrats Say President Indicates an Endless War

By JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times

FEB 27 1971

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—The Democratic National Committee's Policy Council charged today that President Nixon's State of the World Message offered the "prospect of an endless war" in Indochina.

Reflecting a developing Democratic line of attack on the Administration's Vietnam policies, the Democratic officials urged that the United States adopt a firm, unequivocal policy that all American forces would be withdrawn from Vietnam by the end of this year.

The Democratic rebuttal to the President's message was offered in a critical analysis by W. Averell Harriman, chairman of the Democratic Policy Council's committee on international affairs, and Paul C. Warnke, former Assistant Secretary of Defense and chairman of the

council's committee on arms control and defense policy. Their analysis was issued by the Democratic National Committee.

Meanwhile, Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader, accused Senate Democrats of trying to "hitchhike" on the President's program by advocating withdrawal of all American troops by the end of 1972.

Senator Robert C. Byrd, the assistant Democratic leader, responded that while Democrats were ready to support troop withdrawals by the Administration, they were fearful that the President's program meant that the forces would not be withdrawn for some time.

In the 1,500-word statement on behalf of the Democratic

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

National Committee, the two former officials in the Johnson Administration said the Nixon Administration's policies of Vietnamization—turning over the fighting to the South Vietnamese—"offer the prospect of endless war."

In support of this assertion, they pointed to the statement in the President's message that the policy of Vietnamization, in the absence of a negotiated settlement by the Communist side, "cannot, except over a long period, end the war altogether."

While the President, in his message, took credit for reducing American troop strength in Vietnam, he said there was "no assurance of the withdrawal of all American forces." Although American casualties have declined under the Administration's Vietnamization program, the statement said, "South Vietnamese are dying in larger number and civilian casualties continue to mount" and "it is callous to assume that only American deaths are important."

The statement urged that there be "a firm unequivocal declaration that all American forces will be withdrawn by the end of this year." It argued that a policy of complete withdrawal—rather than the program of Vietnamization—would obtain the speedy release of prisoners of war.

'Absence of Candor'

On the President's message in general, the Democratic statement said: "The report's 180 pages of uninformative rhetoric are filled with unstinting self-praise, an absence of candor and a distortion of results."

"Generalities and well-meaning declarations attempt to conceal the failure to formulate definite policies or to take effective action," the statement said. "The President is correct in saying that the world is changing, but too many of his policies are drawn from the attitudes of past decades."

Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, reaffirmed meanwhile the Administration's opposition to a specific deadline for withdrawal of all American forces from Vietnam.

"We have every intention of continuing to wind down the war," Mr. Kissinger said in an interview with C.B.S. television news. The United States troop commitment in Vietnam, he said, "is not open-ended just because we do not give a particular time frame for it."

The Administration intends to continue troop withdrawals as South Vietnam takes over more of the war effort, he said, but to announce a deadline for withdrawal would remove an incentive for North Vietnam to negotiate a peace settlement.