

Mansfield Asks Review Of U.S. Foreign Policy

Washington

Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.), apprehensive that the White House and Congress are heading into mutual recriminations over Indochina, will propose a bipartisan reassessment of the nation's foreign policy.

As Congress reconvenes

today after an Easter recess, Mansfield will seek to set a mood for "mutual accommodation and understanding," built around a joint re-examination of foreign policy by the executive branch and Congress.

To visitors, Mansfield expresses deep apprehension that the Democratic-controlled Congress and the

executive branch will become engaged in recriminations over which was responsible for the deteriorating situation and possible downfall of American-backed governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

With concern, he notes how President Ford and other administration officials already seem to be blaming South Vietnam's military reversals on congressional cuts in military aid and how some of his younger Democratic colleagues are responding by criticizing administration support of the South Vietnamese government of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

Mansfield's proposal is that the reassessment Mr. Ford has ordered of Mideast policy be broadened to include Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean and Latin America and that Congress join the executive branch in the reassessment.

"This is not a period for gloom or despair," he said, "but rather a time for recognition that we are entering a new era which calls for new policies in a world which is changing rapidly and with which we must co-exist."

"It is not a question of withdrawing into fortress America — that is an impossibility in this shrunken world. It is a question of recognizing that World War II was ended 30 years ago. Policies which were good immediately following that conflict are not necessarily good policies today."

"As for blame," he said, "we must all share our part of it because none of us is guiltless."

New York Times