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**Finishing Up**

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# Why Ford Still Wants Viet Aid

Washington

President Ford still wants U.S. military aid for the Saigon government "to help stabilize the situation" in South Vietnam even though he considers American involvement in the war "finished," the White House said yesterday.

Press secretary Ron Nessen, rejecting suggestions that Mr. Ford was taking contradictory positions, told reporters the President "would like to have from Congress as much military aid as is possible" because "there are matters to finish in Vietnam."

Those matters, he said, are "primarily stabilizing the situation and evacuating Americans and South Vietnamese to whom the United States have a special obligation."

Nessen maintained he was making "no modification" in Mr. Ford's end-of-the-war speech Wednesday night to a cheering audience at Tulane University in New Orleans.

There, Mr. Ford said the nation could "regain the sense of pride" that it had before Vietnam, but not "by refighting a war that is finished as far as America is

concerned" and that "the time has come to look forward to an agenda for the future . . ."

Nessen, asked what Mr. Ford meant, told reporters that the President's speech "was a call on the country to shift its focus" from Vietnam to other challenges at home and abroad.

At the same time, however, he said "the President still believes approval of additional military aid would help stabilize the situation and help to bring about a cease-fire or negotiated settlement" between the Saigon government and the Communists.

Nessen also sought to clear up some confusion about the role that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger played in the drafting of Mr. Ford's Tulane speech, which administration officials billed as a major policy statement. Mr. Ford told reporters on the flight home from New Orleans that Kissinger did not contribute to the address.

But Nessen said yesterday that "there is a complete sharing of views by the President and Secretary Kissinger."

United Press