

**Bitter Language**

18 MAY 70

**Clifford Says  
Nixon Is Wrong**

Former Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford has sharply criticized President Nixon for his "reckless decision" to enter Cambodia and for continuing to give priority to Indochina policies while ignoring their "consequences at home."

In a lengthy article in the current issue of Life magazine, published yesterday, Clifford used bitter language to denounce the Cambodian venture and to predict that the operation "will achieve little" and that "any military gains will be temporary and inconsequential."

"Like most Americans," he wrote, "my sincere inclination is to support the President in times of crisis. However, I cannot remain silent in the face of his reckless decision to send troops to Cambodia, continuing a course of action which I believe to be dangerous to the welfare of our nation."

**HANOI**

Clifford served as former President Johnson's secretary of defense when the United States and Hanoi negotiated late in 1968 the halt of American bombing of North Vietnam in exchange for expanded Paris Peace Talks and a series of "understandings" limiting Communist military actions.

In his Life magazine article, Clifford offered a three-point plan for the "complete disengagement" of the U.S. from Indochina to be based on a public announcement that "all United States forces are to be re-

moved from any combat role anywhere in Southeast Asia no later than Dec. 31, 1970, and that all United States military personnel will be out of Indochina by the end of 1971, at the latest. . . ."

Clifford said that "the present policy must be changed" and stressed that "the only effective method to accomplish his is sustained pressure from the public."

**UPSWING**

"The enormous upswing in anti-war sentiment, following the Cambodian transgres-

sion, must be maintained and strengthened and continuously brought to the attention of our country's leaders," he wrote. "the solution is within our hands — if we will but use it."

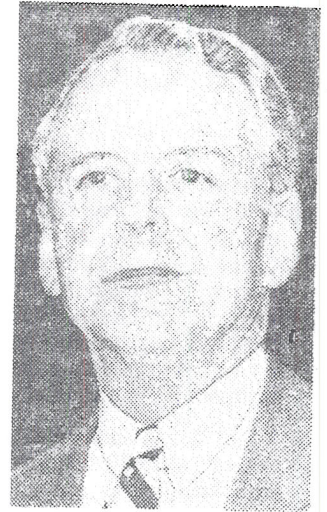
Clifford was speaking out publicly on Indochina after nearly a year of silence.

In his discussion of the Indochina war and, particularly, of the Cambodian incident, Clifford said "our problem in Vietnam is due not only to our inability to attain the military goals, despite our great effort, but to the fact that the struggle is basically a political one. The enemy continues to symbolize the forces of nationalism. The regime which we support is a narrowly based military dictatorship."

**FORMULA**

"President Nixon has described his program of Vietnamization as a plan for peace in Southeast Asia, and that is, in fact, a formula for perpetual war," Clifford wrote.

He said that "I anticipate that in the period of the next few weeks glowing reports



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**CLARK CLIFFORD  
A 'reckless decision'**

will flow back from Vietnam regarding the outstanding success of the drive into Cambodia."

"Figures will be proudly presented showing the number of tons of rice captured, bunkers and staging areas destroyed, substantial numbers of weapons and quantities of ammunition found," Clifford wrote.

"A determined effort will be made to portray the entire adventure as a success, even though no major engagements will have taken place and the number of enemy casualties will be woefully small. This happened time and time again, and our hopes have been raised only to be dashed by new enemy offensives."