

Mansfield: Pull Out Now

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield today opposed strongly any use of either air power or of U.S. combat troops to counter the current Vietnamese offensive.

He called again for complete American withdrawal from the war and said the best road toward that goal would be renewed peace talks at Paris, expanded to include the Laotians and Cambodians as well as the United States and the North Vietnamese.

"It's time for Vietnamization to fish or cut bait — to produce or else," Mansfield told newsmen just before the Senate began its first session after the Easter recess.

The only solution appears to be a negotiated settlement, he said.

Countering the North Vietnamese attack with huge bombing raids will only mean more planes shot down, and more Americans falling into Communist captivity, he said.

He said he opposes the use of American ground combat troops "under any circumstances" except in strictly defensive situations.

"We must get out, lock, stock and barrel," Mansfield said.

Meanwhile, Republican Whip Robert Griffin said he did not want to make battlefield judgments, that decisions of this sort were to be left to the White House and that he had no doubt the President would take every precaution to protect U.S. facilities in Vietnam.