

Packard Says Nixon Plan to Shorten War

David Packard, former No. 2 man in the Defense Department and a staunch Nixon backer, today described the President's latest Vietnam decisions as acts that will "reduce rather than increase the killing."

Packard called a news conference to give his views. He said he does not consider the naval blockade and mining of harbors a serious risk.

'Firm Date'

Packard, a Peninsula electronics firm executive, said the President essentially took a position advocated by most "doves" in telling the Vietnamese that he was willing to withdraw all American troops in four months if prisoners of war are released and a cease-fire gets international supervision.

"They wanted a firm date, and that's what he offered,"

said Packard, chairman of Nixon's Northern California re-election campaign.

He called the North Vietnamese movement to the South "a new phase of aggressive war" and said he believes the action dovetails with a North Vietnamese belief that Americans do not support the President's Vietnam policies.

Risks Evaluated

Packard said he was certain the President carefully evaluated the risks involved in the blockade and harbor mining and must have concluded they were not serious.

He said the President in his mind had done everything possible "short of picking up and walking away from Southeast Asia" and that yesterday's action "increases the likelihood of an early termination of the war."