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The 1968 'Understanding'

by Daniel I. Davidson [A member of the U.S. delegation
to the Paris peace talks which
negotiated the 1968 understandings.]

Washington - When the heavy fighting resumed in South Vietnam several weeks ago, the Administration began harping on the allegation that the North Vietnamese had violated the understanding they had entered into with the United States in October 1968. The clear implication has been that the United States has kept its word while Hanoi has not. The facts are that it was President Nixon who first repudiated and breached the understanding.

..... There are strong indications that the Nixon Administration officials believe the negotiated understanding was a bad deal for the United States. They may or may not be correct. But the crucial point is that after painstaking negotiations, the word of the United States was given. This Administration had no right to dishonor it. Having done so, for it to charge North Vietnam with violating the understanding is the purest hypocrisy.