

# 'Peace With Honor'

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(PART II - 9 APR 75)

This is a special report on fact vs. fancy in the Vietnam-Cambodia war.

By achieving a peace with honor, we stopped the war for the Indochinese people and have enabled the Indochinese people to settle their own future." (Former President Richard Nixon to his staff and Cabinet on Jan. 23, 1973, prior to his television announcement of the so-called Paris peace agreement negotiated by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger).

"SAIGON — Kissinger wanted peace in 1973, and he got it. Now we are suffering the consequences of what Kissinger did to us in Paris. At this point . . . it's up to the Viet Cong to decide what will become of us." (March 30 statement by Tong That Thieu, prominent anti-Communist, ex-cabinet minister, former adviser to two South Vietnamese presidents)

"Cambodia is the Nixon Doctrine in purest form." (Richard Nixon, 1971)  
"PHNOM PENH — Senior Cambodian military officers feared today that the will of their troops to fight will dissolve with the departure, probably permanently, of President Lon Nol." (Washington Post, March 31)  
"PHNOM PENH — Members of the shrunken diplomatic community are

virtually unanimous in the belief that it is too late to negotiate on any subject but on orderly surrender of the capital to the insurgents without further bloodletting." (New York Times, April 1)

"WASHINGTON — President Ford said today that events in Southeast Asia tended to validate the so-called domino theory and that the continued existence of a non-Communist government in Cambodia was vital to American security." (New York Times, March 17)

"PHILADELPHIA — Southeast Asia's loss to the Communists would not be a significant shift in the world military balance against the United States, Defense Secretary James Schlesinger is quoted as saying in today's Philadelphia Bulletin." (Reuters, March 23)

"The President's press secretary said that Mr. Ford had asked the delegation to tell President Thieu and the South Vietnamese people of his respect and admiration for the courage and determination South Vietnam had displayed in fighting the Communist invasion." (New York Times, March 26)

"SAIGON — The South Vietnamese senate called unanimously today for 'a new leadership' as President Nguyen Van Thieu's government yielded the last of its enclaves in the central part of the country to Communist forces without a fight . . . The senate said Thieu was guilty of 'an abuse of power, corruption and social injustice.'" (Associated Press, April 10)

"The South Vietnamese are fighting skillfully and with firmness against this attack by the North Vietnamese." (President Ford at a press conference, Jan. 22)

"SAIGON — The South Vietnamese armed forces, numbering about 1.1 million, were reported in virtual disarray. An intelligence source estimated that about half the nation's army was on the run, was deserting or was in the hands of the North Vietnamese, and that the government here was in a state of upheaval." (New York Times, March 31)

"South Vietnamese backs are against the wall, partly because of a lack of military aid from the U.S." (Speech by Gen. George S. Brown,

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, March 18)

"WASHINGTON — Thus far, Defense Secretary Schlesinger said, North Vietnamese advances have been due largely to the collapse of much of the South Vietnamese force structure. He attributed the collapse to the demoralization and disintegration that followed a poorly executed retreat." (New York Times, March 31)

"Our national security and the integrity of our alliances depend upon our reputation as a reliable partner. Countries around the world who depend on us for support — as well as their foes — will judge our performance." (President Ford, Feb. 25, in a letter to Speaker of the House Carl Albert)

"Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt today discounted charges that a refusal by the U.S. to provide more military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia would provoke European fears that the U.S. was pulling back from its commitments. "There is not the slightest idea of mistrust of the U.S.," Mr. Brandt said." (Reuters, March 30)

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Columnist William Raspberry is on vacation.