

Muskie Asks That U.S. Troops Quit Indochina by End of Year

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23—Senator Edmund S. Muskie, contending that the Administration's program of Vietnamization provides no answer for ending the Vietnam war, called tonight for withdrawal of all American troops from Indochina by the end of this year.

"It is clear that the only light at the end of the tunnel will be the one we strike ourselves," the Maine Democrat said in urging a timetable for withdrawal of all American forces by "a fixed and definite date."

The Administration's approach of Vietnamization, he said, can only lead to "the continuation of a war which must come to an end" and carries with it "incalculable dangers" of a broadened conflict in Southeast Asia. But through withdrawal of American forces, he said, it may be possible to create the conditions for a negotiated settlement among the Vietnamese people.

Senator Muskie, an unannounced candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, spoke before several thousand students and faculty members gathered at the University of Pennsylvania's Palstra — the local basketball

arena—for a "teach-in" on Indochina. The meeting was part of a national "teach-in" movement designed to reawaken the campuses on the Vietnam issue.

In many respects his prepared speech was a restatement of his past position on the Vietnam issue. For nearly a year, for example, he has been urging a fixed timetable for withdrawal of American forces from Indochina.

The speech, however, was regarded by Senator Muskie as the most complete statement of his Vietnam position that he has made in recent months. One of its designed purposes was to clarify what some of his critics have found to be ambiguities in his Vietnam position.

One of the questions that has arisen, for example, is whether the Senator is firmly committed to the concept of a fixed timetable for American withdrawal. He made clear tonight that he continued to support the legislation co-sponsored by Senators George S. McGovern Democrat of South Dakota and Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, that would set a Congressional deadline of Dec. 31, 1971, for withdrawal of all