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To the Editor:

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President Nixon says that he will not fix a date for withdrawal from Vietnam until all our prisoners of war are released. Hanoi says that prisoners can be released as soon as a withdrawal date is fixed, thus carefully preserving the balance of irreconcilable positions. Since the usual practice in war is surely for prisoners to be released following the cessation of hostilities, it would seem that precedent, if not logic, is on the side of the North Vietnamese.

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