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Nixon Jeopardizes His Own Program

by Joseph Kraft

..... The President, by linking his offer [of 8 May] to the mining of Haiphong, presents it in a way unacceptable to the other side. He has been making hostage to his Vietnam policy thousands of American soldiers, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese, the structure of world order, and the temper of opinion in this country.

Consider, first, the American troops in Vietnam. Since the repeal of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, the President is constitutionally authorized to take military action in Vietnam only for the purpose of saving the lives of those men. He could do that very simply by a withdrawal now.