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SENATOR FULBRIGHT
A multilateral approach

Fulbright's Terms for Aiding Hanoi

Washington

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said yesterday he will support President Nixon's proposal to rebuild North Vietnam if Mr. Nixon will agree to cut back on military spending abroad.

Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) said, however, that he will not support the proposal if the U.S. contributes the aid directly. He said he favors a multilateral approach in which the aid would be given to the United Nations for use in Vietnam.

"If the President is willing to retrench in other areas such as balance of payments, bases abroad . . . I think a multilateral aid program could be passed in the Senate," Fulbright said. "At least, I would favor it on those terms."

Fulbright made his comments during the NBC show, "Meet the Press."

Fulbright, a longtime critic of American involvement in Southeast Asia, said he favors the multilateral approach because it would remove the American influence.

"My purpose in making it multilateral would be to disengage the American presence from Indochina and to allow them to settle their differences among themselves," he said. "My purpose is to disengage the nation from what in my opinion is the most disastrous and tragic war we've ever been in."

"I do not think it's our responsibility to continue to dictate how this part of the world should be run."

Another long-time war critic, Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif.), also took the position that reconstruction should be financed through cutbacks in military programs.

In a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate today, Cranston said:

"Since the destruction in Vietnam was caused by war funds, to reconstruct Vietnam should rightfully be considered part of the cost of war."

"Money to aid North and South Vietnam should therefore be taken out of the military budget, without weakening our essential defense." *Associated Press*