

# Nixon Says Paris Accord Can Bring Lasting Peace

NYTimes

By RICHARD D. LYONS  
Special to The New York Times

FEB 21 1973

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 20—President Nixon appealed today in a 25-minute address here, for public understanding of the motives for the settlement in Vietnam and its potential benefits.

The broader result of the accord ending the nation's longest war, he said, will be not only peace in South Vietnam but also greater leverage in bringing about peace in other areas of the world.

By resolving the Vietnam issue, he continued, the United States — he emphasized a strong United States—will be better able to negotiate with both the Soviet Union and China.

"It is my firm conviction that the United States can now exercise more effective leadership in the cause of world peace," Mr. Nixon said. "The chances for us to build a peace that will last are better than they have been at any time since the end of World War II."

The President's address was made to a joint session of the South Carolina General Assem-

bly during a two-hour stop-over on his way back to Washington from Key Biscayne, Fla.

Mr. Nixon was welcomed by generally enthusiastic crowds lining the six-mile route from the Columbia airport to the State House, which, residents here point out proudly to visitors, is pockmarked by fragments from shells fired by Sherman's artillery.

Mr. Nixon chose the setting for the speech after the 170

*Excerpts from the President's speech are on Page 22.*

members of the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives unanimously voted last month to back the peace settlement in South Vietnam, the first of several state legislatures to do so.

Mr. Nixon's speech was a broad outline of his views on why the accord was made and what the United States hoped to gain by it, in both the short and the long run. He has voiced many of the ideas previously,

Continued on Page 22, Column 3

but today was believed to be the first time that he had colated them.

Speaking to the sympathetic audience without a text, the President gave the appearance that he was thinking out loud and was asking the legislators to follow along in the wisdom of his reasoning.

### Recounts Origins of War

"What does peace with honor mean?" the President asked rhetorically, then asked his audience, which also included the legislators' families and state officials, to consider the origins of the war.

Mr. Nixon said the United States had not sent troops to Southeast Asia to conquer North Vietnam or to obtain bases in South Vietnam or to acquire "territory or domination over that part of the world."

The purpose, he said, "was, very simply, to prevent the imposition by force of a Communist government on the 17 million people of South Vietnam."

"That was our goal and we achieved that goal," he said, "and we can be proud that we stuck it out until we did reach that goal."

After dismissing several alternatives that would have meant either prolonging the war or pulling out American forces without a signed settlement, Mr. Nixon read a letter from Mrs. Louis J. Amendola of Downey, Calif., whose son, Capt. James J. Amendola of the Army, was killed in South Vietnam four years ago. Her letter praised Mr. Nixon's insistence on an honorable settlement.

"Had you agreed to anything less you would have let down not only the boys remaining in Vietnam, but also those who died in this war," she wrote.

"It was difficult enough to accept our son's death. But to know it was all in vain would have been even more a tragedy," the letter said.

### 'Did Not Die in Vain'

And the President insisted "that James did not die in vain, that the men who went to Vietnam and have served there with honor did not serve in vain, and that our P.O.W.'s, as they return, did not make the sacrifices they made in vain, and I say it because of what we did in Vietnam."

He declared: "and the way to honor them, I say, is for us to work together to build a lasting peace in the world, a peace

that can last not only in Southeast Asia, but a peace that the United States can help to build for this whole world in which we live."

Mr. Nixon said the "opening" with China and with the Soviet Union, plus the settlement in Vietnam could lead to "a tendency for us to sit back and assume that we are going to have peace, instant peace."

But this will not happen, he said, unless the nation remains strong militarily, which also will assure "the trust of our allies and the respect of our potential adversaries in the world."

Had the nation taken a "peace at any price" attitude, he added, "then respect for America would have been eroded, perhaps fatally."

The President noted that talks were continuing with the Soviet Union and China and said, "but as we conduct those discussions, let us be sure that the President never goes to the negotiating table representing the second strongest nation in the world."

This drew perhaps the loudest burst of applause from the

audience, which a moment later also cheered another remark, on a domestic issue:

"For much too long, power has been flowing from the people, from the cities, from the counties, from the states, to Washington, D.C." Mr. Nixon said the flow should be the other way.

On his arrival at the airport, Mr. Nixon stopped for several minutes to chat with Bobby Bagley, the wife of Air Force major who has been a prisoner of the North Vietnamese for six years.