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Nixon: 'World Peace Rests in U.S. Hands'

NORFOLK (Va.) — (AP) — President Nixon told an Armed Forces Day audience yesterday that it would be a crime against Americans who died in Indochina to let the Paris peace agreement be destroyed by cease-fire violations.

"That is why we are continuing to take the necessary measures to insist that all parties to the agreements keep their word and live up to their obligations," he declared.

Nixon repeated allegations that the North Vietnamese have refused to withdraw thousands of troops in Laos and Cambodia.

"A peace agreement that is only a piece of paper is no good," he said in a ceremony at the Norfolk naval complex. Later he traveled to

his Camp David, Md., retreat for the weekend.

Nixon indicated that failure to force adherence to the Paris agreement could lead to a secondary role for the United States.

"Mankind's hopes for peace," he said, "rest in America's hands. The whole world is watching today to see whether the Star-Spangled Banner still waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Nixon — accompanied by his wife Pat, his aides and Virginia political figures — spoke to Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy contingents and their families with the aircraft carrier Independence as a backdrop.

In his speech the Presi-

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dent said the nation's aim is not to continue or renew the war but to preserve and strengthen the peace.

He also said that success in negotiations with the Soviet Union on nuclear-arms limitations and troop levels in Europe and with China generally depends on continued military strength.

"Because of all that is at

stake in the critical period ahead, we must reject the well-intentioned but misguided suggestion that this is the time to slash America's defenses by cutting billions of dollars off our budget for national security," he said.