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# Nixon Ties Peace to U.S. Arms

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KEY BISCAVINE, Fla., May 27—President Nixon said today in a Memorial Day speech that peace can be maintained only if America remains strong and if it plays its proper role in world affairs.

If this country turned its back on its international responsibilities it would be "disastrous not only for us but also for all people in the world who seek peace," the President said in a radio broadcast from his home here.

"America's isolation can lead only to the world's destruction," Mr. Nixon emphasized in rejecting the plea of some that this country "turn inward and away from the world's problems."

While he made no new disclosures about negotiations for a Middle East settlement, he said that in "a part of the world where conflict has become almost a way of life, we have begun the long hard work of reconciliation, of bringing people together at the peace table who formerly met only on the battlefield."

Without naming Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the President said that diplomatically the United States fulfills its responsibility "to act as peacemaker in explosive areas like the Mideast" by using "the best possible men and ideas."

"The records show that we have been successful in doing this in the past five years," he said. "But no matter how talented our diplomats are, the policies they pursue must be backed up by credible strength—the 'sinews of peace.' And in the last analysis, this means military strength."

The President wound up a long Memorial Day weekend here receiving reports from Kissinger and relaxing in the sunshine. He returned to Washington tonight and will send to Congress Tuesday a

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mid-year report by the Council of Economic advisers on "economic developments and policies."

He promised the report in a radio speech on the economy from his home here Saturday. Herbert Stein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, will brief reporters on the report at 11 a.m. and it will be sent to Congress at noon.

The President's radio speech contained some of the strongest language he has used in urging this country to maintain its defenses and at the same time play a constructive role in international affairs.

"Weakness invites aggression," he said, "and aggression triggers war."

If there are to be successful negotiations to reduce armaments, "America must remain strong," he said.

The President singled out two Democrats for high praise—Chairman F. Edward Hebert (La.) of the House Armed Services Committee and Sen. John Stennis (Miss.) of the Senate Armed Service Committee.

"They are patriots first and partisans second," he said in applauding their support of a strong national defense.

Three times last week a bipartisan majority in the House voted down amendments which would "have seriously damaged our defense posture," the President said.

One amendment would have forced the withdrawal of 100,000 troops from overseas, the second would have cut \$733 million in defense spending and the third would have halted development of "two important strategic weapons systems, the Trident submarine and the B-1 bomber," Mr. Nixon said.

In voting down those amendments, the bipartisan majority "earned the thanks of all Americans who recognize that a strong America is indispensable if we are to succeed in building lasting peace in the world," he said.

America's hopes for building a lasting peace "are brighter than at any time in living memory because we now have a structure of peace and we are carefully working to strengthen it," the President said.

But he declared that lasting peace "can be achieved only through lasting awareness, lasting preparedness and lasting strength, both physical and moral."