

# Nixon Makes Memorial Day Plea for a Strong Military

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, May 27—President Nixon, in a Memorial Day address to the nation, coupled an appeal for a strong military with praise for two Southern Democrats in Congress.

Mr. Nixon warned in his radio address that "America's isolation can lead only to the world's destruction" and commended those in Congress who have helped him turn back cuts in the military spending he said was necessary for America to continue as world peacekeeper.

It was the kind of speech that would appeal to the conservative bloc in Congress, which has given the President his strongest support against the effort to impeach him. He singled out for praise Representative F. Edward Hébert of Louisiana, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

### House Panel Cited

"I would like to commend the efforts of Chairman Edward Hébert and the members of the House Armed Services Committee for doing an outstanding job in considering the over-all

defense budget," Mr. Nixon said. "At times we have had some disagreements on the fine print, but on the whole the committee has taken a strong and statesmanlike stand for a sound national defense."

"Chairman Hébert is a Democrat and a strong partisan in the best sense of the word," he continued. "So is chairman Stennis, his counterpart in the Senate. But when it comes to the strength of America, the honor of America, and the future security of America, they are patriots first and partisans second. I hope that a majority of their colleagues will continue to profit by their example for, on the issue of a strong America, the Congress should not be separated by party labels but united as patriotic Americans."

### Praise for the House

In his 13-minute address from his Key Biscayne home, Mr. Nixon also praised the House for recent action in defeating legislation to withdraw 100,000 American troops from Europe, to cut \$733-million across-the-board in defense spending and to halt the development of the Trident submarine and the B-1 bomber.

"In all three cases, a bipartisan majority of the House

of Representatives stood firmly for a strong national defense," he said. "In doing so, it 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."

Mr. Nixon's aides had previously pointed to the House actions on the military as an indication that Mr. Nixon, even while under impeachment inquiry, will be negotiating from a position of strength when he travels to the Soviet Union and other countries next month. This, they said, shows that the President's foreign and military policies enjoy bipartisan support.

"Lasting peace," Mr. Nixon said, "can be achieved only through lasting awareness, lasting preparedness and lasting strength, both physical and moral. As America and other nations have learned only too well through experience, weakness invites aggression, and aggression triggers war."

### 'A Large World'

He said, "there are some people here in America who would like to turn inward and away from the world's problems."

"But like it or not, we are part of a larger world," he con-

tinued. "In a day when atomic weapons are spreading, when famine stalks parts of the earth, and when the tinder that could ignite another massive conflagration exists in many parts of the world, to turn our backs on our responsibilities for world leadership would, in the long run, be disastrous not only for us, but also for all people in the world who seek peace."

It was the second national radio broadcast that Mr. Nixon made during his four-day week-end here. On Saturday, he spoke on the economy, saying there are signs that the worst of inflation and shortages are over. During the weekend, he also visited and went sailing with his friend, Charles G. Rebozo. The President is to send an economic message to Congress tomorrow, which will be a detailed version of his radio address.

His speech today was shaped around his apparent strategy of seeking to improve his standing in Congress and among the people by demonstrating his leadership in world affairs.

"In 1974," he said, "our hope for 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."