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# MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THE PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITING FILE  
WORLDWIDE TREATMENT  
OF CURRENT ISSUES

Indochina and U.S. Policy Reassessment

No. 28

April 7, 1975

*Handwritten initials: JAC*

s'interroge  
utilité  
et-européen

## Le Monde

## Frankfurter Allgemeine

## 新華新報

## EL TIEMPO

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## The Daily Telegraph



## ПРАВДА

### Summary

Foreign media gave developments in South Vietnam--particularly the plight of the refugees--extensive news coverage, but centered their comment on an expected evolution in U.S. foreign policy with far-reaching changes in the American gamut of international commitment.

The Times of London saw events in Indochina as a "multiple failure of political judgment and military enterprise" resulting in "a serious loss of confidence--not in the first instance among America's allies, but within the U.S. itself. It is this, rather than the fall of Vietnam, that could gradually erode America's influence abroad if it is not resolved within a reasonable time." More blunt was Le Quotidien de Paris: "America still uses her allies; but it is no longer certain that she would be ready to defend them."

Asian judgments ran from cautious to fearful. Tokyo's Mainichi said "the credibility gap between the U.S. and South-east Asian countries will pose a new problem in Asia and... is responsible for the signs of policy change seen in these countries." South Korean papers found it "hard to believe that the U.S. will fulfill its security commitments to other Asian countries" and warned, "We must be alert to a possible military venture by North Korea."

Manila's Bulletin Today judged that "American leadership... has suffered more than Americans suspect." Thai Rath of Bangkok said President Ford "was compelled to proclaim... that the U.S. will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with... its SEATO allies (but) everybody now knows full well that SEATO is only a paper tiger." And the Canberra Times asked: "Should Australia also begin to re-examine its position with the U.S. alliance?"

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