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To make the truth known--this is what we must do to win the hearts and minds of the American people in this most important election year.

I do not issue this challenge to you solely for partisan reasons. I do so because I sincerely believe that the cause of peace at home and abroad will be best served by a Republican victory in 1972.

The truth sometimes touches us in flashes. We speak of "moments of truth." Such a moment occurred the night of January 25, 1972, when President Nixon went on nationwide radio and television to reveal the vigorous private negotiations he had been pursuing to end the war in Vietnam.

Certain truths then became immediately evident to all reasonable persons:

It is not the United States which is continuing the Vietnam War but the North Vietnamese.

We offered as long ago as last May 31 to withdraw all U.S. troops from Vietnam within six months in exchange for an Indochina cease-fire and release of American prisoners of war.
We are not committed to the support of any particular government in Saigon—only to the objective that the people of South Vietnam determine their future.

We have done everything possible to negotiate an end to the Vietnam War short of cooperating with the North Vietnamese to topple the Saigon Government.

The North Vietnamese have been insisting that we collaborate on turning South Vietnam over to them.

Another truth also became clear. Some candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination are not only willing but are urging that we make peace on the enemy's terms. They are, I believe, unwittingly prolonging the war.

I say they are prolonging the war because I believe the North Vietnamese would accept President Nixon's basic peace plan if they were not encouraged to believe they will do better by holding out. They might very well buy the idea of an election in South Vietnam if some Democratic leaders did not lead them to believe we eventually will simply turn South Vietnam over to them.

Consider what some of the Democratic presidential candidates are saying, in effect. They are saying to the American people and to the world: "The Democratic Party made a mistake in leading the United States into the Vietnam War nine years ago. We have spent over $100 billion in that war and lost more than 50,000 lives. Let's wipe the slate clean by making peace on the enemy's terms."

The Vietnam War ultimately is going to end through negotiations. The greater the number of Americans who talk of ending the war through surrender, the farther off the day of settlement will be.

It is ironic that some leading Democrats today point to their party as the party of peace. It is the Democrats who initiated the U.S. combat role in Vietnam and escalated our commitment there to 543,000 men. It is easy to have peace if you are willing to take the enemy's terms.

It was a great Roman, Cicero, who said: "What then should be the objective of those who are at the helm of government, which they should never lose sight of, toward which they ought to set their course? It is peace with dignity."

It is interesting to note that leaders of the country's largest POW-family group have praised President Nixon for his latest peace initiative and are demanding that his critics go on record with their own plans for freeing American prisoners of war.

I join the POW families in that demand. I would like to ask the Democratic presidential candidates where the morality and justice would be in eliminating all (more)
U.S. aid to Saigon while the North Vietnamese continue to receive up to $1 billion a year in aid from their allies. In that connection, we have offered to limit our aid to Saigon if the North Vietnamese would agree to a similar limitation on the aid they get.

We could negotiate an end to the war—if the Democrats would unite behind the President.

As for Republicans, we can be proud of our record on Vietnam. We have reason to be proud because we are getting out of Vietnam with honor.

In fact, the entire Republican record during the three years that Richard Nixon has filled the Presidency is a basis for pride. This, too, is a truth we are going to have to carry to the American people this election year.

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We can be proud of the President's New Economic Policy, which will push unemployment down toward the 5 percent mark by the end of 1972. We are moving from a wartime to a peacetime economy, and the dislocations are severe. Meanwhile, employment has topped 80 million, an all-time high. With employment steadily growing, unemployment will drop. Sound growth in the economy will soak up the increased number of job-seekers. The economic indicators are pointing upward.

We have to work to make truths like this known because the Democrats are playing a game they are very good at. It's called "viewing with alarm"—seeing the worst of things and blaming the Republicans for it.

There's really only one way to beat the Democrats at their game. That is to recite the real-life accomplishments of our Republican Administration.

We have reason to be proud of the Nixon Administration, and we should let the American people know the truth about it.

The truth is it was the Nixon Administration that reversed the course of the Vietnam War and is ending U.S. involvement in that war in an honorable way.

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The best way to help Dick Nixon is to elect Republicans to Congress next November 7 so he will have the team he needs to turn America in the right direction.

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