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4/13/75

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Q. What was the President's reaction to his meeting yesterday afternoon with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee? Reports indicate that they are strongly opposed to providing the President with the \$722 million he has requested.

A. The meeting that took place yesterday was the first of its kind in over 50 years and while some of the Congressional members present expressed varying degrees of opposition to the President's program, the President welcomed this frank and forthright discussion in the interest of working closely with the Congress -- an interest he expressed clearly in his speech on April 10 -- on the Indochina crisis.

The President's request for urgently needed assistance to Vietnam is now with the Congress. He has received indications that timely consideration will be given to his request in view of the gravity of the situation in Vietnam and the implications for Americans and American foreign policy.

The President will continue to work for the enactment of the legislation he sent to Congress on an urgent basis and to give his full support to the efforts of the South Vietnamese in their current struggle.