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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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DANGERS OF INVOLVEMENT IN ASIA

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Great Falls Tribune, Sept. 28, 1969]

MAJORITY LEADER MANSFIELD WARNS UNITED STATES ABOUT FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN ASIA

(By William D. James)

A warning Sen. Mike Mansfield made last week that a deeper U.S. involvement in Laos could develop into a Vietnam-style military entanglement is drawing national and international attention because of the accuracy of his grim predictions about the course of the Vietnam war.

The Senate Majority Leader based his warning about Laos on a trip he made to Southeast Asia in August at the request of President Nixon.

The trip was his sixth fact-finding trip to Southeast Asia in the last 16 years. He made such trips in 1953, 1954, 1955, 1962, 1965 and 1969.

Mansfield, who has investigated conditions in Asia at the request of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, has been consistent in warnings that the U.S. should avoid getting lured into the quicksand of Asiatic wars.
Mike Mansfield Papers, Series 21, Box 45, Folder 22, Mansfield Library, University of Montana

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The Montana senator has been lauded frequently by national correspondents for his clear, unemotional voice in the Vietn

am conflict. His objective analysis of the situation in Vietnam has been widely recognized as one of the most insightful in the country. His views on the war are widely respected and have influenced numerous decisions made by policymakers.

Mike Mansfield has maintained a consistent position on the war since the beginning. He has consistently advocated a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and has opposed the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.

In his remarks today, Mansfield discussed the impact of the war on the Vietnamese people, and the importance of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. He also addressed the issue of U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, and called for a reduction in the number of military personnel deployed in the country.

Mansfield's speech was well-received by the audience, and drew widespread praise and support from colleagues in Congress. His words have been cited as an example of the need for a clear and constructive approach to the war in Vietnam.
reduction of American advisors can begin any time now . . . I can safely say the end of the war is in sight."—Gen. Paul D. Martin, commander of the Military Assistance Command in Saigon, Oct. 31, 1963.

"Secretary McNamara and Gen. (Maxwell) Taylor reported their judgment that the major part of the U.S. military task can be completed by the end of 1965 . . ."—White House statement, Oct. 2, 1963.

"I feel we shall achieve victory in 1964 ."—Tran Van Dong, South Vietnamese general, Oct. 1, 1963.

"South Vietnam is on its way to victory . . ."—Frederick E. Nolting, U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, June 12, 1963.

"The South Vietnamese themselves are fighting their own battle, fighting well."—Secretary of State Rusk, April, 1963.

"(The struggle) is turning an important corner."—Secretary of State Rusk, March 8, 1963.

"The corner has definitely been turned toward victory in South Vietnam."—Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense, March 8, 1963.

"There are definitely encouraging elements . . . the ratio of casualties . . . indicates some turning in the situation."—Secretary of State Rusk, Feb. 1, 1963.

"The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed."—Secretary McNamara, Jan. 31, 1963.

"The South Vietnamese should achieve victory in three years . . . I am confident the Vietnamese are going to win the war. (The Viet Cong) face inevitable defeat."—Adm. Harry D. Felt, U.S. Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Forces, Jan. 13, 1963.

"Every quantitative measurement shows we're winning the war . . . U.S. aid to Vietnam has reached a peak and will start to level off."—Secretary of Defense McNamara, 1963.
