1-26-1972

Terminal Date for Withdrawal of POW and MIA Based on a cease-fire

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation
Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Terminal Date for Withdrawal of POW and MIA Based on a cease-fire" (1972). Mike Mansfield Speeches. 1062.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/1062

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
January 26, 1972

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

It is a long step forward in laying the cards on the table and letting the American people and the Congress know of the many attempts over the past 30 months to arrive at a basis for negotiations. The President and the Congress are coming closer together on the basis of a terminal withdrawal date in exchange for the release of the POW's and recoverable MIA's.

The concessions by the Administration could lay the groundwork for the start of negotiations for the first time. It is my understanding that the Administration has indicated that it is willing to consider separately the military and political aspects of the proposals. I feel that the military aspects are the most important, i.e. terminal date for withdrawal, release of the POW's and the recoverable MIA's based on a cease-fire because that is first and foremost in our interest; the political settlement relative to South Viet Nam is secondary in comparison.

Overall it is an advance of previous positions but whether or not the NLF and Hanoi will consider them to have enough substance remains to be seen. It is my belief that the President's proposal should receive the most serious consideration by the other side but that is a decision which they will have to make. Certainly, it represents a degree of flexibility which has been absent up to this time.