

*Nat'l Press Club Lunch*

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Following are excerpts from the report which Cyrus S. Eaton, Cleveland industrialist, will deliver to a National Press Club luncheon Wednesday on his recent peace-seeking trip to Hanoi and discussions with North Vietnam's leaders. Mr. Eaton's title is "A Capitalist's Report from Hanoi."

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WASHINGTON--The American protest against continuance of the war in Vietnam has been led by our clergy, educators, women and youth, but it is the solid, respectable industrialist, businessman, banker and broker who should now demand an immediate end to this senseless conflict.

What started as a supposedly sacred crusade against Communism and has deteriorated into an unholy war of extermination against a small nation threatens today a crisis in the economic life of our own country. Not even this immense and magnificent United States can afford the thirty billions of dollars a year that we continue to pour down the Vietnam War rathole.

For the moment the cries for peace are stilled and the casualty lists pass unheeded in the newspapers because we are told that the troops are coming home. It is made quite clear, however, that not all the troops are coming home, and there is to be no end to the fighting. Meanwhile, the signs of economic strain threaten us.

Three company presidents in the last ten days have told me that they do not know where they can raise the millions of dollars that they need to keep their companies going and expanding. The mayor of a major city has told me of his concern that even unprecedented interest rates cannot produce ready markets for the bonds to support municipal operations and expand educational facilities.

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If we will not end the fighting and the war's economic burdens on our own, we may wish to lull ourselves with hopes that the other side will do it for us. I must report to you, however, that on my recent trip in search of peace, I found no encouragement for such hopes in Hanoi.

In frank, lengthy discussions with North Vietnam's leaders last month, I found them unflagging in their determination to continue the fighting as long as necessary. Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, chief negotiator Le Duc Tho and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh convinced me, not only by what they said but by their air of calm confidence and determination, that they have the will to go on.

I think we in this country, despite the millions of words printed about Vietnam and the endless glimpses seen on television, do not really understand how the North Vietnamese feel about the war. To them our half-million American boys are one more invading force in a series of occupying powers going back through the centuries.

The North Vietnamese may be Communists, but I found them nationalists first. They are fiercely proud, as we ourselves might be, of their country's struggles to be independent, first from the Chinese, later the French, then the Japanese, again the French and now, in their eyes, the latest invader, ourselves.

Not only, as they view it, are we invaders, but the Saigon government leaders who are our allies are traitors to Vietnam. That is because the Saigon generals are North Vietnamese who fought on the side of the French forces in France's effort to re-establish its colonial hold over Vietnam after World War II.

With this history in mind, the North Vietnamese leaders assured me that they remain committed to their basic position that our troops must go home unconditionally and that the

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Saigon leaders must be replaced with a coalition government.

The policy of Vietnamization, they told me, will not work, nor will it deter them. The people of South Vietnam, they said, are not behind the government there, and will not pick up the fighting from our forces. The Hanoi statesmen ask how the South Vietnamese government can be expected to accomplish without our combat forces what has not been accomplished with them.

Lastly, the North Vietnamese show you in their museum the arrowheads of the first invaders two thousand years ago and recount the history of their country's struggles ever since. What, they ask, can another fifty years of fighting this war mean to them?

If we cannot, therefore, count upon the North Vietnamese to take us out of our dilemma, what shall we do? I believe that the United States I am so proud of has the moral courage to end this war now, and the power to accomplish it. I do not think we will worry so much about saving the national face that we will risk losing the national soul.

I am convinced from my talks in Hanoi that if we will announce the withdrawal of 100,000 of our forces within sixty days from now and the rest within a year and a half that the settlement of all the other problems can be negotiated swiftly.

The business community and the mayors of our cities particularly must now speak up for a quick end to the Vietnam involvement. And the Senators and Congressmen must pull the purse strings to shut off this unhappy chapter in our history.

My oldest son in World War II was first reported missing in action and then was a prisoner of war. Mrs. Eaton and I were, therefore, particularly pleased to be told in Hanoi that they were taking steps to improve the delivery of mail to American servicemen detained in North Vietnam. They said they were conscious that delivery had not been as effective as they wished. The war, of course, has affected enormously the means of communication and transportation, with the bicycle and the hand cart, as we saw for ourselves in the streets of Hanoi, mainly depended upon.