

I do not think, however, that the adoption of the sub-amendment by this House /to call on the United States to stop the bombing/ by a parliament outside the United States would serve the purpose that we have in mind of bringing this war to an end. It is an amendment which has not been dealt with by any other parliament friendly to the United States that I know of, and I do not think this kind of amendment would serve the purpose we have in mind. Indeed, if we begin to give this kind of formal parliamentary advice from outside the United States, it might conceivably have the opposite effect. I also think we should be careful not to put our hopes so high in regard to the abandonment of the bombing of North Vietnam that we are likely to run into disillusionment if that should take place and fail. I myself would not attach excessive expectations to peace and a negotiated settlement if bombing should end tomorrow.

We might, as we have in the past -- and by we I mean the Western countries, the friends of the United States -- well run up against what has been encountered before, namely escalation of demand on the other side. So I think it might be desirable to find out what the reaction in Hanoi would be to an immediate and unconditional end to bombing of the North. Would they stop fighting and begin talking and, if they refused or attached a new condition, would the danger of massive escalation be increased? This is another factor we have to take into consideration....

S/C