

Platform Proposal of
Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.

Before the Republican Platform Subcommittee
on Human Rights and Responsibilities
Honorable Peter Frelinghuysen, Chairman
August 15, 1972

ON PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

We recognize that, eight years after the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was adopted in 1964, there is only one remaining issue in Indochina which is vital to American interests and national purpose. That single issue is the safe return of our Prisoners of War and a proper accounting for those Americans missing in action. We have met any obligations we may have once had for military combat assistance to the people and government of South Vietnam; our single goal in Indochina is the safe return of American prisoners. To the people of Vietnam must be left determination of the ultimate reunification of Vietnam as contemplated in the Geneva Accords of 1954.

We therefore reiterate and adopt the language agreed to by a majority of Republican Senators and Members of Congress last year in the Military Procurement bill (PL 92-156):

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to terminate at the earliest practicable date all military operations of the United States in Indochina, and to provide for the prompt and orderly withdrawal of all United States military forces at a date certain, subject to the release of all American prisoners of war held by the Government of North Vietnam and forces allied with such Government and an accounting for all Americans missing in action who have been held by or known to such Government or such forces. The Congress

hereby urges and requests the President to implement the above-expressed policy by initiating immediately the following actions:

- (1) Establishing a final date for the withdrawal from Indochina of all military forces of the United States contingent upon the release of all American prisoners of war held by the Government of North Vietnam and forces allied with such Government and an accounting for all Americans missing in action who have been held by or known to such Government or such forces.
- (2) Negotiate with the Government of North Vietnam for an immediate cease-fire by all parties to the hostilities in Indochina.
- (3) Negotiate with the Government of North Vietnam for an agreement which would provide for a series of phased and rapid withdrawals of United States military forces from Indochina in exchange for a corresponding series of phased releases of American prisoners of war, and for the release of any remaining American prisoners of war concurrently with the withdrawal of all remaining military forces of the United States by not later than the date established by the President pursuant to paragraph 1) hereof or by such earlier date as may be agreed upon by the negotiating parties."

We further reiterate and confirm the official expressed position of the Eisenhower Administration agreeing that the United States would not use force to disturb the settlement agreed to under the Geneva Accords of 1954.