

Hesburgh

University of Notre Dame

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(NB: The following is a statement by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, issued on April 21 in response to requests from student organizers of anti-Vietnam war escalation activities on campus.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The country has had enough victory talk from Vietnam. Everyone has lost: The South Vietnamese with their devastated country and the millions of civilian casualties -- physical, moral, and spiritual. North Vietnam has lost, again in devastation and lives. They bear full blame for another new massive invasion, as we do for our escalation in response. How long must all this insanity continue? We in America have lost heavily in lives, resources, and in the moral-rot that has infected our country from Indo-China actions. Most of all, we have put off urgent domestic problems because of lack of money needed for solutions while squandering 150 billion dollars for the devastation of a small country and its people. Our basic unity as a nation is torn; our moral sensitivities badly violated. Who can now speak of victory? Possibly the devil, but certainly no one else. Vietnam, North and South, is a massive victory for all that is brutal and evil in mankind. No one has an easy answer -- invasion of South by North is not an answer, massive dispatch of new air and naval forces by us is a response, but not an answer. The only answer is peace which will never be attained as long as we are there. It may not be attained after we leave, but at least by leaving we will no longer have the continued massive killings and maimings of humans on our national conscience. We might even be asked to help rebuild the land we have devastated. And we won't be subjected any more to the years' long empty predictions of victory around the corner while everyone is losing.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
President, University of Notre Dame

