



United States Senate

Viet Nam Note

February 5, 1968

Dear :

In response to your communication of recent date let me advise that I am fully prepared to do any and every honorable thing to bring this terrible struggle to a conclusion. We have indicated to Hanoi our willingness to sit down at the negotiation table if only they will give assurances in return for a cease bombing order, that they will not take advantage of that period by undertaking to infiltrate greater numbers of troops and supplies, and seek thereby to develop a military advantage for North Vietnam. Thus far, Ho Chi Minh has been reluctant to give us even this small reciprocal guarantee and it would leave us rather empty handed and at a distinct disadvantage unless such an assurance could be attained.

In any event, I shall be as helpful as I possibly can.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen