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Evansville, Indiana  
August 29, 1965

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Senator Birch Bayh  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bayh:

I have been reading of your recent proposal to keep ships trading with North Vietnam from calling on American ports, and have been quite disappointed.

It sounds to me as if you are attempting to appeal to the followers of ex-Senators Jenner and Capehart rather than reflecting the wishes of those Indiana voters attracted to you and your party.

Surely you realize our so-called blockades of various countries that are in current disfavor have never done any significant harm to the stability of their governments. Castro is stronger than ever, Mao stronger than ever, North Korea no weaker, and even Albania's government seems to be in no danger.

Perhaps we should abandon our policy of opposition and overthrow of governments that temporarily displease us, and concentrate on minding our own business, cleaning up the mess in our own house.

May I suggest that a better policy toward Asia might be admission to the U.N. for China (which is inevitable)

a proposal for a re-unified neutral Vietnam, whose security against China could be effectively guaranteed by the U.S., USSR, and U.N.

a proposal to re-unify Korea (or is this country to be permanently divided, also?)

a proposal to permit Taiwanese to vote for Independence, unification with China, or continued rule by Chiang Kai-Chek, etc.

If you sincerely believe in freedom for the subject peoples of the world, shouldn't we start with those under various American sponsored governments. If Americans don't believe these people (Vietnamese, Koreans, Taiwanese) are entitled to self-determination, NOW, then our professed interest in their welfare and freedom is hypocritical.

I respectfully suggest that we stop talking peace while we propose war with every bill submitted in the Congress. If it is your intention to wage fullscale war against the 17 million people of North Vietnam, why don't you propose it, and gain the virtue of honesty.



I admire and respect your statements and votes on most domestic issues. I only hope that all the hope for the future of America is not destroyed by a war that both parties agree is a mistake.

May I suggest that you are in better company on the Viet Nam issue with Senators Mansfield, McGovern, Fulbright, Nelson, Pell, Javits, Aiken, Morse and others, not with the relics from the 20's who still believe that God created only one virtuous country in history.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

