

## COMMITTEE DRAFT OF VIETNAM PLANK: MAJORITY

1. Basic Objective: A Democratic Party commitment to end war in Vietnam by honorable and lasting settlement" -- not by escalation, military victory, unilateral withdrawal or unconditional surrender. "Calculated risks" consistent with responsibility of great nation to seek "peace of reconciliation." Next President thus provided with considered and responsible policies and flexible procedures to bring peace and stability to Southeast Asia.

2. Sources Used or Considered: Recent speeches and statements of President and Vice President; other proposed platform planks (McCarthy, Kennedy supporters, all); Kennedy address, Aug. 21; Muskie Platform Statement, Aug. 19; other sub-committees Platform Committee; materials distributed by National Committee for a Political Settlement in Vietnam (Clark Kerr Committee).

3. Recognition of Changing Conditions: Explicitly recognizes that "events in Vietnam and the negotiations in Paris may affect the timing and the actions we recommend." Offers next President clear statement of policy without tying his hands. Full support provided for Paris talks and further current peace initiatives.

4. Bombing: Plank calls for stopping all bombing of North Vietnam. No conditions. Timing: "when this action would not endanger lives of our troops." Timing thus left to Government, not determined at political Party Convention. Government also directed to "take into account" the "response" from Hanoi. We've already made many public and private initiatives for peace; have had bombing pauses and, recently, a bombing limitation which protects 90% of North Vietnam population and 80% of land area. No particular kind of response called for -- plank does not speak of "positive" or "reasonable" response or in any way qualify what kind of action or inaction should be regarded by Government as warranting total bombing halt. Maximum emphasis put on safeguarding our troops.

5. Cease-Fire and Troop Withdrawal: (a) Govt. asked to negotiate with Hanoi "an immediate end or limitation" of hostilities; (b) also calls for withdrawal from South Vietnam of all foreign forces -- U.S. and allied, and forces infiltrated from North. No time set; no numbers fixed -- details left open for negotiation.

6. Election of Post-War Government: Post-war govt. of South Vietnam to be determined (a) by fair elections, (b) safeguarded elections, (c) open to all major political factions and parties which operate peacefully. Plank favors -- does not require -- effective international presence [regional or UN, comprised preferably of Asians] which would help in safeguarding elections, supervising troop withdrawal, protecting minorities against reprisal, and in other aspects of transition from war to peace.

7. Interim Defense and Development Measures: De-Americanize war by speeding existing effort to improve training and equipment of South Vietnamese army; reduce U.S. military involvement as South Vietnamese forces better able to defend their own country. "Do all in our power" to bring about further economic, political and social development and reform in South Vietnam, including land reform. For post-war reconstruction and economic development of entire region, including South and North Vietnam, we will "provide substantial U.S. contribution," help to be sought from Japan, and from European industrial states.

8. Future Policies: Future U.S. assistance in Asia, military and economic, will be selective, considering (a) our own vital interests; (b) our resources; (c) willingness of nations requesting help to help themselves and (d) their willingness to help each other through regional and multilateral cooperation.

In South Vietnam we want no bases, no military presence, no political role. We ask only that choice of post-war govt. of South Vietnam be determined freely and peacefully by all the South Vietnamese people.