

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON S. 3390 ON

THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1972

MAY 31, 1972

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As of May 20, 1972, the war in Indochina has cost our nation 55,934 dead, 303,031 wounded, and incalculable sums of tax dollars. But the costs of the war cannot be measured in blood and money alone.

There is no way to calculate in mathematical terms the damage this war has caused to our society; our democratic institutions, our sense of values as human beings, or the tragic consequences for the people of Indochina whose land has been the cockpit of conflict for over a quarter century.

Perhaps the war will continue indefinitely after United States forces leave. No one can foresee the final military or political outcome in the area. But the Committee is convinced that the continued presence of our forces works to prevent the operation of natural political factors that might result in a settlement between the parties and assures the continued imprisonment of captured Americans. There is much evidence that the overwhelming sentiment of the American people is for total withdrawal as soon as possible. Enactment of the Mansfield amendment should end the stalemate, effect the return of our fighting men, the release of our prisoners and, hopefully, set the stage for the rebuilding process that is needed for the American spirit.