April 1, 1969

Dear:

Thank you for your communication regarding the subject of such tremendous concern to every American—the war in Vietnam.

As you know, the President has made clear his position with respect to any escalation of the war militarily and I join him in the confidence that the current peace negotiations in process in Paris will, whether in public discussion or private talks, result in establishment of an honorable and enduring peace.

There is now no question but that the United States is continuing to do everything in its power to bring this dreadful conflict to an end and to bring our boys home. Against this background, I urge you to take heart in the expectation that is now mine that the President, the Secretary of State and Ambassador Lodge and his colleagues will lead us to a just and satisfactory peace in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
June 23, 1969

Dear :

I appreciate your deep concern over the continuing bloody struggle in Vietnam and wish I were possessed of the power and authority to bring it to an end overnight. That, however, is wishful thinking with respect to a conflict that has been raging for nearly six years with frightful loss of life and property.

The first step by the President in pursuance of the understanding which he reached at Midway Island with President Thieu is very encouraging. I have great hope that the speculations now in progress over the prospect of bringing home another 75,000 will materialize and by that time we may have reached an agreement for the settlement of this conflict in an honorable way.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen