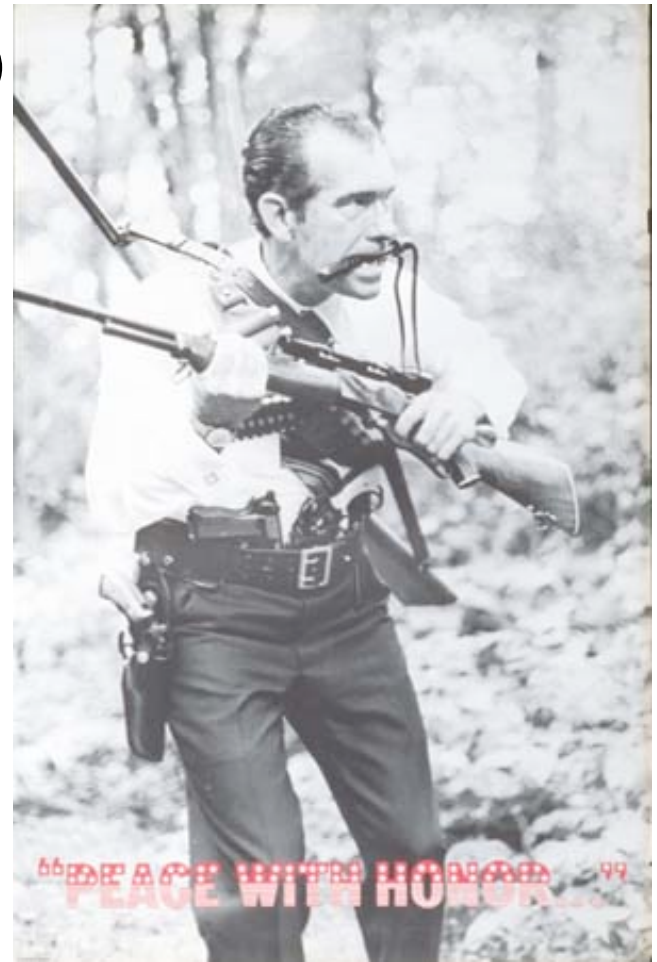**Henry Kissinger: Me.**

Peace With Honor

- **KISS**: Nixon far superior to LBJ on FP; knew clear-cut victory in Vietnam was impossible (676)

- **Peace Movement** – HK hates them (675)
  - Protests had turned global (677)

PEACE WITH HONOR

Hanoi's Ultimatums (678)

- #1 – Unconditional withdrawal of US

- #2 – Overthrow of Thieu in Saigon

- OR ELSE: US POWs would not be released

- **Mini-Tet Offensive**→ 1K US killed/month
  - Nixon's offer to compromise had no effect
  - Ho thinks he can win unconditional victory
  - **KISS**: Capitulation compounded by dishonor

Nixon's Options

- #1 – Unconditional withdrawal
- #2 – Military & political showdown w/ Hanoi
- #3 – Shifting responsibility of war to Saigon

Option One (679-80)

- Revisionists: Argue this should've been done in '69
  - **KISS**: Totally unfair criticism
- Compromise & capitulation (695)

Option Two (680-81)

- Kissinger's favorite option
  - Thought it would lessen domestic strife & unify goals
  - Eventually enacted in '72 (too late?)
  - Thought if it had been done earlier, US could have won

Option Three (681-83)

- **Vietnamization** – Nixon's choice
  - Boost domestic morale, helped Saigon become self-sufficient & gave Hanoi a chance to compromise
  - Kissinger disagrees, writes memo on its risks
- **KISS**: After 20 years of containment, US paying price of overextension; no simple choices left
  - On balance, probably the best choice in context

Le Duc Freakin' Tho (684)

- **Paris Peace Talks** take four years
- LDT Staunch N.VIE guerrilla supporter
    - Sent him to negotiate b/c they wanted to win, not cut a deal; wants psychological dominance
- Kissinger *HATES* him

YOU ARE THE WORST PERSON

IN THE ENTIRE WORLD

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Diplomacy Is A Long Road

- Hanoi Goals: Same as always
- US Goals: Cease-fire→ total withdrawal→ free elections in S. VIE (685)
- Two years later, LDT is still a complete jerk (686)
- LDT changes demands & agrees to ceasefire (687)
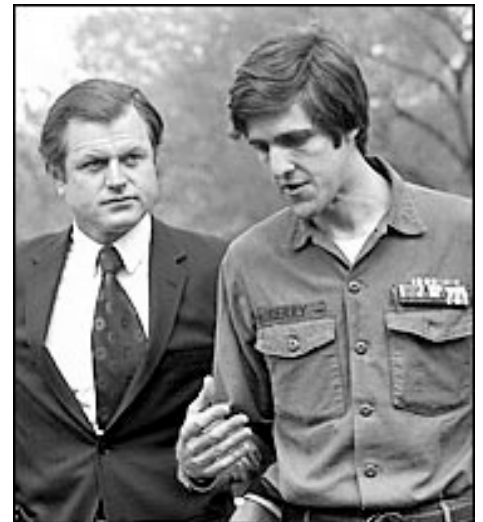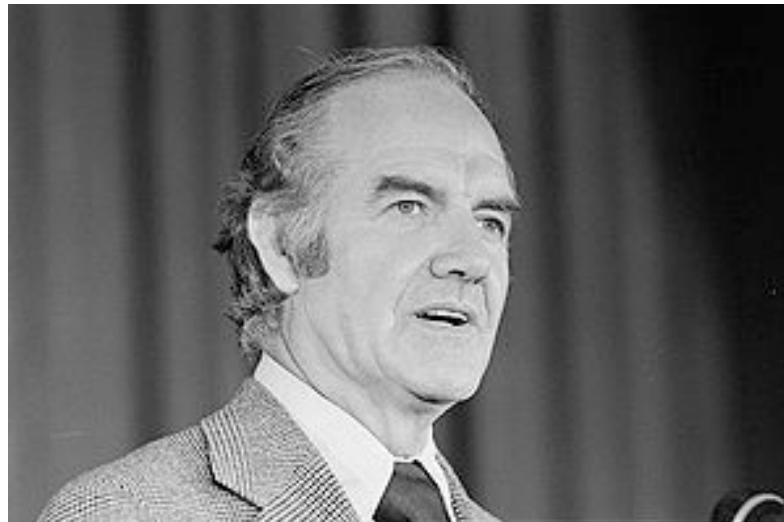 - **KISS**: Makes various arguments on why he was always on defense

&%$#@ Peace Movement! (688)

- 550K Forces→ 20K in 3yrs; casualties fell from 16K in 1968 to 600 in '72

- Nixon still wanted "peace with honor" while PM would only settle for unconditional withdrawal

Kind of a Disaster

- Communists essentially want to end the war by "having a dialogue with themselves" (689)

- Nixon didn't give in to most demands (except total withdrawal)→ assured the crumbling of S.VIE

- Well-meaning US Congress didn't realize that if they conceded anything toward compromise, Hanoi would take it, and not compromise at all (690)
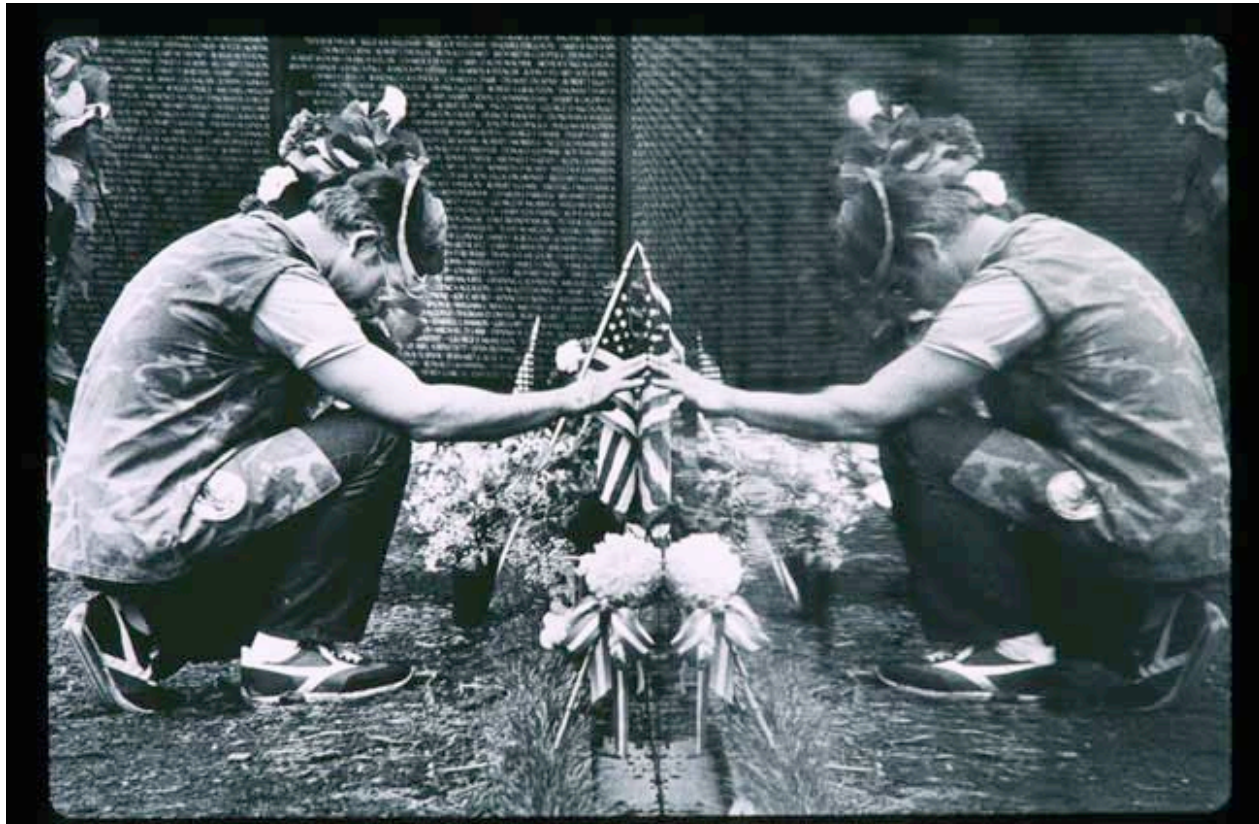
Cease Fire '72 (691-92)

- POWs returned, MIA tried to be accounted for, Thieu government remains, US aid to S.VIE

- Hanoi accepted b/c of lack of supplies, US attack on CAM/LAO, defeat of Spring '72 offensive, lack of support from USSR/CHN, resumed US bombing, and fear of Nixon's reelection

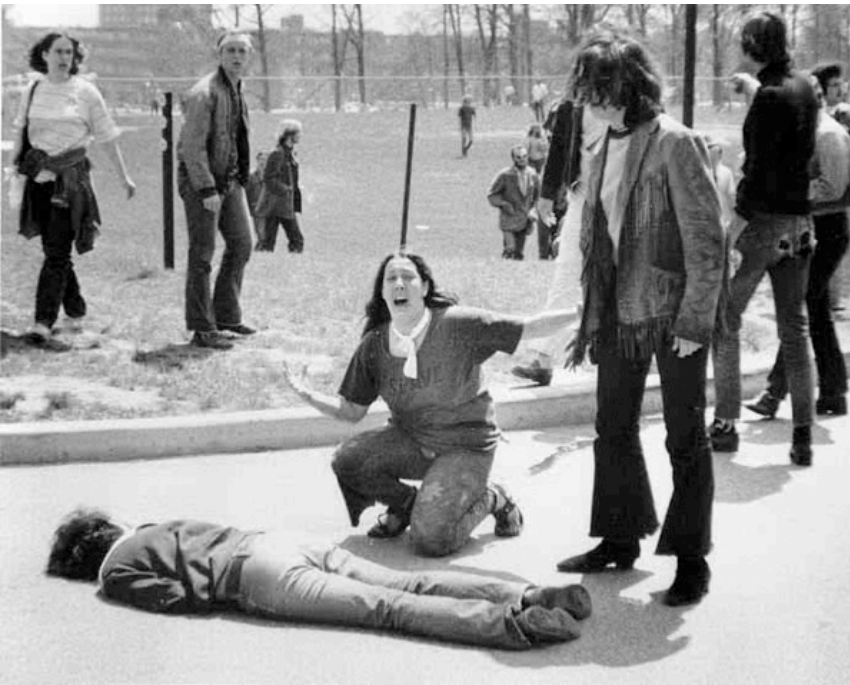 – Didn't satisfy PM

- Signed 8/15/73

War Stats

- US: 2M involved, 58K KIA, 300K wounded, 2500 MIA

- S.VIE: 185K-500K casualties

- N. VIE: Around 1M casualties

Cambodia

- Nixon and Kissinger take some heat (693)
- **KISS**: CAM wanted us there
  - Khmer Rouge had been like this since 1950s, not b/c of US intervention
  - Nonetheless, domestic division in US led to tragedy in CAM

Fall of Saigon

- 8/15/73 – Congress ends funding to war effort
- Paris Peace means nothing to N.VIE (697)
- 1975 – Takes N. VIE two weeks to take S.VIE/CAM
  - S.VIE into concentration camps
  - 15% of CAM pop. Killed by Khmer Rouge
  - Reunification under communism in less than a year
- **KISS**: VIE most hurtful domino (699)

Critiques & Responses (695)

- Election?

- War too long?

- 1975?

- Right to enforce peace?

- Credibility gaps? (699)

- Misunderstanding? (698-99)

It's not a matter of what is true that counts but a matter of what is perceived to be true

- Henry Kissinger

Lessons of Vietnam (700)

- Clear understanding

- No alternative to victory

- Factions need to be united
  - These weren't done b/c Nixon saw it as shirking responsibility
  - Can't accept abdication

- American unity is a duty and the hope of the world