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