

THE PRESIDENT' S READING COPY

VIETNAM SPEECH -- TELEVISION

MAY 8, 1972

Good evening.

Five weeks ago, on Easter weekend, the Communist armies of North Vietnam launched a massive invasion of ~~the~~ Republic of South Vietnam -- an invasion that was made possible by tanks, artillery, and other advanced offensive weapons supplied to Hanoi by the Soviet Union and other Communist nations.

1. The South Vietnamese have fought bravely to repel this brutal assault.
2. Casualties on both sides have been high.
 - (1) Most tragically, there have been over twenty thousand civilian casualties, including women and children, in the cities which the North Vietnamese have shelled in wanton disregard for human life.

