

In a review with the Honorable Everett

McDermott, U. S. Senator from

the State of Illinois

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MR. HENRY: Senator Everett Dickson of Illinois has just come back from a whirlwind trip to the Pacific. He has brought back a report which he has presented to President Eisenhower. In fact, he had breakfast with the President one morning and luncheon with the Secretary of State giving them the information, the first-hand information, which he picked up on this run through the East.

SENATOR: How far did you go in what length of time?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, we were gone about 13 days and traveled 24,000 miles, which is just exactly around the earth, so that is a lot of mileage to compress into that period of time.

MR. HENRY: And you saw a lot of important people?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Yes. We went to Korea, to Japan, to Formosa, to Indochina and we saw all the leaders, both our own representatives over there and the native representatives, so I think we got a pretty good briefing

running out and so you have to make allowances for that because they were Korean prisoners. They were his own people that were released and that, of course, we can understand.

MR. HENRY: Well, now, what effect do you think-- how closely is this whole Pacific situation, including Indochina, for instance, tied in to the Korean problem?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, I would say very definitely because after a release of troops and a release of planes and one thing and another in Korea, who should say when they should be moved to the southern border of China and make them be available for what happens in Indochina? And that, of course, is a very interesting incident. I was going to say a very interesting adventure.

MR. HENRY: What is your impression of the situation there in Indochina?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, of course, we have been investing about \$500,000,000 a year. The thing has been going on now for the seventh year and there has been no resolution of the issue. As a matter of fact there is no battle line in Indochina. The Franco-Union troops, as they call them, meaning the French and the Viet-Namees seem to prevail in the city areas and in the delta by daytime and the Viet-Minh forces prevail at night, so this is one of those seesaw operations and it could go on for a long time.

MR. HENRY: There doesn't seem to be an end to

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No, unless the ideological issue is resolved there and that is something, of course, that I should want to report to the Senate Appropriations Committee, to the Republican Conference and I did mention it to the President but it is a very delicate and tiffy issue that has to be resolved before you have a foundation on which a victory can be built.

MR. HENRY: Well, you went over, did you not, at the instance of the Appropriations Committee?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is right. This was a sort of joint mission in a sense that we were commissioned by the Appropriations Committee to make this venture since Mutual Aid and the whole foreign aid program and policy are coming on for action and then in addition thereto I think I would be at liberty to say that there were one or two things that the President thought I ought to do and ought to look into, so in that sense it was sort of a joint mission.

MR. HENRY: Well, now, everybody in this country is muddled about the situation in Formosa. Now, what did you find out about Chiang Kai-shek and his troops?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Frankly, we saw just about everything. We briefed with the generals of the Nationalist Army. We had three or four sessions with Chiang Kai-shek and Madam. We saw their economic picture. We saw our