## An Open Letter to President Nixon from the Freedom Leadership Foundation

Neil Salonen February 28, 1972

America became the greatest country on earth not because of her wealth or power but because of the ideals she represented. America was created out of all nationalities, races, and creeds; we have been uniquely blessed by God with material abundance not for our own extravagance, but to fulfill our responsibility in leading the less fortunate nations of the world.

Because we have been repeatedly willing to sacrifice our national interests for the good of the world, we have set a pattern of enlightened service. In World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam we have demonstrated our belief that there can be no peace which is not accompanied by freedom.

Freedom can only be preserved by a national willingness to pay the price required. That willingness can only be inspired by dedicated and visionary leaders. Times of crisis in the past have always called out the greatness in America's leadership. We are again standing at a crossroads where greatness is once again required.

We need leaders who will tell us the reality of the situation in Asia, the brutal reality of Communism, and the hard facts of what our role must be if we are to defend and maintain the free nations of Asia.

We are shocked that you not only have failed to alert the American people to the totalitarian nature of the regime in Peking, but through many expressions of warmth implied your endorsement of that government.

We are further stunned that with the eyes of the whole free world watching, you did not underscore our commitment to defend the nations of Free Asia, especially the Republic of China, but in fact made them deliberately more vague.

Mr. President, there can be no peace obtained by compromising away our morality or ideals. Only by resolutely standing for what we know to be truth and justice can we in victory obtain a stable peace or in defeat proudly face our end without blemish.

We want to believe that you have been acting in good faith, but unless you reconfirm our commitment to pay any price in the defense of freedom you have deceived us and failed us. We will not rest in the struggle for victory over Communism and for a harmonious, united world. Mr. President, where do you stand?

The Freedom Leadership Foundation 28 February 1972