



On May 8, 1972, Nixon made a major concession to North Vietnam by announcing that the US would accept a cease-fire in place as a precondition for its military withdrawal. In other words, the US would withdraw its forces from South Vietnam.

PEACE NOW
September 16, 1972

Until the ugly now, peace was a whole word
That drew respect, that came as though on creature wings,
Endowed by wisdom and by certain silver flings
Of sympathy for fellow men whose lives occurred
On the same swift circling planet and whose children heard
The same sweet laughter and the steeped bell that rings
For dancing in the street... and the urgent swell that brings
The world to kneel and pray for a sunlit blessing shared.

But now we've made of Peace a very blasphemy,
And stripping honour from the holy bird we've hailed
It with a barrage of word and bomb and bribery,
We bow in the warm but tasteless dust of thousands killed
And maimed and crazed...we bow with pearly hat on queasy
Heart and start, O God again...with what fulfilled.



Ruth Mary Packard DuBois

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