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The expert... Mrs. Hicks

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John Kerry has been getting entirely too much publicity, telling us what a burden it was slaughtering Vietnamese, and how it bothered — and still bothers—our gang over in Nam.

Fortunately one of our very own, none other than the Southeast Asia authority from South Boston—Louise Day Hicks—has just come back from Vietnam to rebut such nonsense as the weekend in Washington and the carryings-on of Kerry and other “negative activists.”

As forthrightly refreshing as ever, she has returned from the VIP briefings in Saigon with new insights: “. . . the disgrace of this war is not in our being in Vietnam, but rather in those who oppose our boys while they are there.”

Take that, John Kerry!

Thoroughly Modern Mrs. Hicks, taking a few days off from Congress to see what is really going on in Vietnam, developed the most up-to-date outlook on the situation since L. Baines Johnson. It was a worthwhile trip because, contrary to what you're heard, she is able to tell us that troop morale is high and most of the grunts “are convinced that the place to stop tyrannical Communist brutality is Vietnam and not America's shores.”

Take that, Fulbright, McGovern, McCloskey and the rest of you “instant experts!” And look out — because Mrs. Hicks says the troops told her “they would take care of matters in Vietnam if I would take care of Congress with its instant experts.”

This is the kind of straight talk we

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need to hear in the midst of all the peacemongering and chicken talk of withdrawal by people like John Kerry. It blended nicely with the statement the same day, Sunday, by two men dug up in Pleiku by the CIA or somebody else on our side. Introduced as North Vietnamese defectors, Bui Nogoc Chieu and Ha Xuan Phang, said there is an anti-war campaign “deep in the hearts and minds” of their countrymen. They said North Vietnam is tired of the war, and Ha Xuan Phang remarked that Hanoi government has a credibility gap between itself and the people.

Now wait a minute. Just because they've won the war are they supposed to be stealing our rhetoric, too? “Credibility Gap” is a copyrighted American knock, and if the North Vietnamese begin using it, that should make us mad enough to re-escalate.

The war itself was not all that Mrs. Hicks puts in proper perspective. She learned why there is a GI drug problem: “American boys lean on drugs because they haven't been able to depend on support of people back home . . . the task of defending freedom is never easy, but when this is compounded by nihilistic apathy at home, the boys turn to drugs to maintain their morale.”

Take that, you nihilists!

In her role of congresswoman moonlighting as Asian troubleshooter, Mrs. Hicks has performed a valuable service to all of us—including Mr. Nixon, President moonlighting as Quaker. Neither will be swayed by the shrill cries of Kerry and the rest of the “negative activists.”

As a reward for completing her mission successfully, I suggest the President appoint Mrs. Hicks ambassador to South Vietnam where she can deal with the problems first hand. All of us would sleep sounder with Louise in Saigon.