

STENNIS SAYS SAIGON CAN'T HOLD ON ALONE

WASHINGTON, March 9 (UPI)

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday that South Vietnamese troops were incapable of winning the Vietnam war by themselves and American forces might have to remain there for as long as 10 years.

Senator John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, said that Americans would be "badly misled" if we think we can depend too much upon this South Vietnamese Army winning the war or being able to hold the line.

"I don't believe they will be able to do it and I believe God knows this better than we do," he said.

Stennis said he did not favor a withdrawal of American forces but added: "I don't believe present policy is working anywhere."

"At the present level of fighting," he said, "we'll have to stay there for 10 years at best."