

THE COLD WAR DECLASSIFIED

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has released 25-year-old, recently declassified Congressional testimony concerning the Cold War discussions of 1949 and 1950.

That was when France was fighting to retain its colonial empire in Indochina, Mao Tse-tung had taken over China, and the Communists of North Korea had invaded South Korea.

Sen. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), the only current Senator who was then on the Foreign Relations Committee, explained, in releasing the documents, that they had been kept in secret archives for two 12-year periods and that most of the men who took part in the Cold War discussions were either dead or retired.

One such retiree is former Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (R., Mass.), who was ambassador to the United Nations, 1953-60, ran as Vice Presidential candidate with Richard Nixon in 1960 and subsequently was appointed ambassador to South Vietnam.

Lodge suggested that the U.N. should pressure the Soviet Union to submit to international control of nuclear weapons..."and if in the case of this international policy the Soviet Union refuses to submit to such control, the United States should proceed to lead the free world against her."

The then Secretary of State Dean Acheson opposed the plan. In January of 1950 Acheson was asked if the South Koreans could withstand a North Korean

invasion. He replied that they could not if the Chinese intervened and prophesied that the U.S. would not enter any such war. On June 25th of that year, North Korea invaded South Korea. Two days later President Truman ordered U.S. troops into the war.

Acheson's most blatant misjudgment concerned the French in Indochina, when asked about them in 1950, he told the Foreign Rela-

tions Committee: "The conflict between the nationalist forces and the colonial powers has been removed. That is true in Indochina. The French are moving far faster than anyone thought they could, and I do not believe there is any longer a problem."

As we sadly know now, some 25 years later, the Vietnamese war problem is still with us.