

Agnew Pledges More Arms Aid For S. Korea

By Lee Lescaze
Washington Post Foreign Service

SEOUL, Aug. 24—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew today began his visits aimed at reassuring America's Asian allies with the promise of more military assistance to Korea.

"I am here to assure you that in connection with our commitment to Korea, the United States intends to provide your government with additional military assistance to substantially modernize the defense capability of your military," he said.

Agnew said that a wing—54 planes—of F-4 Phantom jets would be shifted to bases in South Korea and that planes specially designed to detect night infiltration at sea would be provided to the Seoul government soon.

American and Korean sources said that the amount of additional military assistance was still up in the air. It will be one of the topics when Agnew meets President Chung Hee Park for a two-hour working session Tuesday morning. The Vice President paid a brief courtesy call on President Park today.

Korean sources said that President Park told Agnew at their initial meeting that there were two points which Korea and the United States disagreed. Park was reported to have said that the United States had an unrealistically high opinion of South Korea's defense capability.

In addition, the president urged Agnew to delay planned American troop reductions until after the promised U.S. help in modernization of Korea's military is completed.

Reliable sources indicated that such a delay on the American side was not in the cards.

The South Koreans are disturbed by American plans to withdraw 20,000 troops, more than a third of the present U.S. military force here, by next July. In addition, Korean

leaders have said they will have to bring home some of their 50,000-odd troops now in South Vietnam if the U.S. Senate-passed amendment limiting U.S. allowances for third country soldiers becomes law.

President Park and other Korean leaders have been pressing the United States to specify how many dollars Washington is prepared to spend to take the place of soldiers it withdraws from Korea. U.S. officials have countered by asking the Koreans to work out detailed requests for the kind of military equipment they need.

Present U.S. military aid to South Korea runs close to \$140 million annually. One source has said that Seoul wants a five-year, \$3 million package.

The vice president gave the details of the imminent steps to bolster Korea's air defenses in a short address during a welcoming ceremony in Seoul's City Plaza. Agnew was presented with a key to the city and a large bouquet during the ceremony which was held under a constant drizzle before a crowd of about 15,000 people provided by the government with paper American and South Korean flags which they waved at intervals.

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Agnew Promises Korea Aid

AGNEW, From A1

Agnew sounded the main theme of his Asian tour when he stressed that the United States is not abandoning its commitments in the region.

"Americans are known as men who keep their promises and who regard their commitments as binding," Agnew said. He asked the Korean people to maintain "faith in us" and added: "I reaffirm the importance we attach to the pledge contained in our mutual defense treaty with you."

Speaking in front of the city hall which was draped with bunting welcoming him and a sign unrelated to his visit urging Seoul's five million people to work together, Agnew recalled the "terrible summer" following the outbreak of the Korean war in 1950 and the names American troops gave to Korean hills—Vegas, Bunker, Little Reno and Pork Chop.

"Times have changed," he said, "Today in Asia we have reached a new era of hope and optimism, of shared trust and mutual progress."

In all four nations on the official schedule for Agnew's ten-day trip—Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and South Vietnam—there have been recent indications that some leaders are pessimistic, or at least, nervous about the future. In all four nations the United States has recently reduced its troop strength. In all four there are doubts about the real meaning of President Nixon's Guam Doctrine.

The United States, as one observer remarked, "has explained the Nixon Doctrine to its domestic and its Asian audiences. Each audience is worried by the explanation it hears given to the other.

Speaking to reporters on his

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plane coming to Seoul, Agnew took note of the possibility for confusion but insisted: "I'm not here to equivocate or to mislead them or to relieve their apprehensions for a week and then have the thing explode in their faces after I get back in the United States."

"We know that Vice President Agnew will be telling us that we have American support," a Korean official said today. "But we will not know the extent of support until we see what happens."

Agnew's visit, Premier Il Kwon Chung declared in a speech at city hall "is taking place at a time when we are faced with solemn realities that are rarely encountered in their present magnitude."

The premier's welcoming speech dwelt at length on the possibility of a new Korean war and said the United States "has always stood by us in difficult times."

His speech noted the recent rapprochement between China and North Korea which reached a peak of anti-Seoul rhetoric in late June on the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean war.

While he warned of North Korean belligerence, the premier quoted from South Korean President Park's Aug. 15 speech which said: "It is a supreme mandate for our people to achieve unification . . . we must work for a peaceful settlement."

That speech, although it has drawn no positive reaction from North Korea, was the first occasion on which Park had spoken of peaceful reunification.

"He violated his own anti-Communist law," one official here remarked, "when he opened up that subject."

This is Agnew's second Asian tour within eight months. Compared with his journey of more than three weeks last December and January, his present trip is austere and rapid. He is traveling without his wife and with a relatively small official party.

N. Korea Describes

Trip as 'War Junket'

From News Dispatches

North Korea said yesterday that Vice President Agnew is visiting South Korea on "a dangerous war junket" aimed at provoking another Korean war.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry said American plans to withdraw 20,000 of its 62,000 troops from South Korea actually are a "smokescreen" to shield a U.S. military buildup.

The United States, the ministry said, flew some F4 Phantom fighter-bombers into South Korea "a few days ago" and earlier this month transferred 200 signalmen from South Vietnam to Korea.

The North Vietnam News Agency reported that American Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver said Agnew's trip was aimed at carrying out the "Nixon Doctrine" of making Asians fight Asians.

"It is a fact that the struggle of the Vietnamese to expel the hateful enemy—the U.S. imperialist murderers and mercenary troops—from the sacred territory of Vietnam has given birth to a generation of revolutionaries inside the United States itself," Cleaver was quoted as saying at a rally in Hanoi.