

Humphrey Sees Wider Asian Talks

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EUGENE, Ore., Sept. 28
The forthcoming seven-nation summit meeting on Vietnam should lead to a series of wider top-level conferences that may eventually include Asia's Communist powers, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said today.

The touring Vice President, interviewed en route here aboard his chartered turbo-prop Convair, envisioned the formation of a permanent "working committee" at the mid-October meeting of chiefs of state in Manila.

That group, Humphrey predicted, would work toward convening "even broader discussions of regional issues" extending beyond the Vietnam war.

As potential new participants in such a subsequent Asian conference, the Vice President listed India, Japan, Pakistan, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

This session, Humphrey said, could in turn spark an all-Asian conference that would encompass Red China, North Vietnam and North Korea. But Humphrey stressed that under current conditions

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Wider Asia Discussions Predicted by Humphrey

any summit conference with China "wouldn't work."

The principal reason for the Manila conference, Humphrey said, was the vital need "to bring these nations into the planning at the discussion stage" while avoiding any "bilateral operation" between Washington and Saigon.

The Vice President said that the Administration would respond favorably to "the sensitivity of Asia toward taking their own initiative" and that Washington would never try to "usurp" that goal.

He struck a similar theme in speaking here today about Vietnam before some 8000 students at the University of Oregon. "Our hope for Asia," he said, "is what Asians hope for Asia."

Humphrey was greeted by more than 100 demonstrators at Eugene's Mahlon Sweet Municipal Airport and their placards managed to bracket the political spectrum.

Students from the local chapter of Young Americans for Freedom, a conservative Republican group, carried signs reading: "Ho Chin Minh is a Dirty Old Man" and "Drop the Bomb Now."

Militant opponents of U.S. intervention in Vietnam held signs saying "Defoliate Minnesota," Humphrey's home state, and "May Napalm Burn Your Fat Face." But other greeters chanted "We like Hubert" and waved placards reading "We Believe in You."

According to the Vice President no one wants peace more than Mr. Johnson, the man who makes the decisions. Humphrey put it this way in the airborne interview:

"Despite the pressures heaped upon him from all sides, the one man who has continually exercised restraint is the President. He hasn't unleashed the might of America . . . I sometimes just want to weep. You don't know what pressures he faces and the tough decisions he has to make. Every step he takes has been weighed carefully."

While asserting that "we must steel ourselves to the long pull," Humphrey nevertheless noted a tide running within the country for a quick solution to the war.

"In some ways," he said, "we're right back to '64 and Barry (Goldwater) and the finger on the trigger."

While the Vice President declined to comment on his activities during and after the Manila meeting, it is believed he will sharply cut back his campaigning on behalf of Democratic candidates while at the same time filling any ceremonial or speaking engagements that the President might turn over to him.