

# VIETNAM POLICY REVERSAL

October 2, 1963: Defense Secretary McNamara and General Maxwell Taylor return from Vietnam. White House issues statement.

The major part of the U. S. military task can be completed by the end of 1965.....By the end of this year (1963) the U. S. program for training Vietnamese should have progressed to the point where one thousand U. S. military personnel assigned to South Vietnam can be withdrawn. (GOP booklet on Vietnam, p. 35; Facts-on-File booklet on South Vietnam, p. 70)

November 1, 1963: General Paul Harkins, Military Commander in Saigon, South Vietnam, quoted in Stars and Stripes.

Victory in the sense it would apply to this kind of war is just months away, and the reduction of American advisors can begin any time now. (GOP booklet, p. 35)

November 15, 1963: A military spokesman in Saigon states

One thousand American military men will be withdrawn from Vietnam beginning December third. (GOP booklet, p. 36; Vietnam Reader, p. 393)

→ December 3, 1963: Two hundred and twenty U. S. troops left Vietnam by plane. They were the first part of the 1,000-man force scheduled to be withdrawn by Christmas day. (Facts-on-File, p. 77)

December 21-22, 1963: The administration confirms it has abandoned its previously-announced goal of withdrawing most military personnel from South Vietnam by the end of 1965. (Facts-on-File, p. 77)

## Sources:

THE WAR IN VIETNAM (Prepared by the staff of the Senate Republican Policy Committee), Public Affairs Press, 419 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. - \$1.00

SOUTH VIETNAM: 1961-65, Facts on File, 119 W. 57th St., New York, N. Y., 10019 - Paperback

THE VIETNAM READER (Ed. by Marcus Raskin & Bernard Fall), Vintage Paperback - \$2.45

Additional information on the continual escalation of the war in Vietnam may be obtained in The Politics of Escalation in Vietnam, by Sharnam, Scott & Melnik, Fawcett paperback, 60¢.