

Major U.S. Re-Examination of Policy Toward Post-War Vietnam Is Urged

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The real struggle for South Vietnam in the future is likely to take place in the halls of Congress rather than on the battlefield, a study group organized by the American Security Council said yesterday.

A council report launched a counter-campaign against what it calls "a small minority of critics of American policy in Vietnam," who seek to cut off all aid to that country.

The council, which includes many former high-ranking military and naval officials and diplomats who are committed to support of South Vietnam, describes itself as "a private, non-profit organization concerned with national defense and security."

Its on-the-scene report, made public at a luncheon meeting, said, "There is reason for concern that the Congress, preoccupied with problems closer to home, might succumb to the pressures of the anti-Vietnam propagandists" whose "verbal assaults" on the Government of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu "have reached a crescendo unparalleled since the days of the Vietnam 'moratorium' and the 'march on the Pentagon.'"

"South Vietnam," the report said, "stands today on the threshold of viability, of being able to 'go it alone.' For the first time, there are signs that a nation is emerging, with a unity of purpose and of leadership and with an increasing degree of popular participation."

Each one of those claims is vigorously challenged by critics of the Thieu regime, in and out of Congress.

The report itself stated that

"The next two years will be crucial years" for the South Vietnamese government, which requires major American aid to survive. To deny the aid, the report said, without specifying any future amounts, would ignore "the sacrifices of the 7 million Americans who served there," and "deliver South Vietnam and its 18 million people to the Communists by default."

An eight-member group

headed by John M. Allison, former U.S. ambassador and assistant secretary of state, visited South Vietnam for the council last month. The group included Elbridge Durbrow, U.S. ambassador in South Vietnam from 1957 to 1961; Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-Ind.), Richard W. Smith, chairman of the National Federation of Young Republicans, and Prof. Anthony Kubek, of the University of Dallas.