

Ky Predicts '67 Victory Over Reds

For 6/20/66
SAIGON, June 19 (AP) —

Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, marking the end of his first year in office today, predicted victory over the Vietcong in the coming year. As he spoke, his troops were cleaning out the last remnants of Buddhist opposition to his regime in the northern city of Hue.

Beaming with optimism and confidence, the Premier told the nation in an anniversary broadcast:

"We have been able to overcome all difficulties, stabilize the situation, thus opening the path to a better future with the prospect of final victory over the Communist aggressors soon." He added:

"The fight against the Communists will be soon crowned with success and the next year will witness a full success of democracy and final victory over the Communists."

Troops carrying torches paraded through the heart of Saigon, and multi-colored fireworks exploded in the sky over the capital. The anniversary

See SAIGON, A12, Col. 3



Associated Press

CELEBRATION — A Montagnard girl, leader of a company of woman soldiers, strides past Gen. Gy during ceremonies marking his first year in power.

SAIGON—From Page A1

Ky Predicts '67 Victory Over

sary celebration coincided with South Vietnam's Armed Forces Day.

While doubt could be cast on some of Ky's predictions, for the time being the slender, 35-year-old Premier seemed to have the situation well in hand.

At day's end, his elite troops took over complete control of the former imperial capital of Hue. The city was the last center of organized Buddhist resistance from where Thich (Venerable) Tri Quang has been conducting a struggle to

overthrow Ky's regime. Tri Quang was in a Hue hospital, exhausted by a 12-day fast in protest against the regime and America's policy in Vietnam.

There was no resistance from dissident Buddhist-led troops and "struggle committees" as government troops secured control of Hue on both banks of the Perfume River.

In Saigon, the Buddhist Institute was ringed with troops and barbed wire and the government pledged to stifle all agitation by force if necessary.

However, optimism generally dominated the political scene this Sunday with 24,000 promotions distributed throughout Vietnam's armed forces and fireworks crisscrossing the skies instead of the usual flares for air strikes.

In his address, Ky said the nation was on the verge of disaster when his regime took over.

"The bravery of our fighters and their spirit of discipline have countered the heavy pressure of the Vietcong . . . the armed forces

Vietcong

won victory after victory, took the initiative on the battlefield and completely destroyed the empty hope of the Vietcong for success in their monsoon offensive," Ky said.

In the diplomatic field, the Premier said, his regime "attempted to reestablish national prestige throughout the world . . . we were able to establish diplomatic relations with many Afro-Asian countries and tighten the bonds with our allies."

The recent devaluation of the piaster, according to Ky, was aimed at halting the inflation "in order to achieve a stable economy."

All legitimate demands of the Buddhists have been granted by his regime, Ky said, including the planned elections for a Constituent Assembly in September, addition of ten civilians to the ruling junta and naming an 80-man civilian-military advisory body, now in the process of formation.