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Ike Says Use Of A-Weapons Would Be 'Silly'

By Marvin L. Arrowsmith

GETTYSBURG, Pa., Oct. 10 (AP) — Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower still insists "we must do whatever is necessary to win" the war in Vietnam quickly. But he calls it silly for anyone to conclude this means he favors U.S. use of nuclear weapons there.

To anyone who received the impression—and some did—that in recent remarks he was suggesting use of nuclear weapons to achieve a swift victory, Gen. Eisenhower—in response to a request for comment—had this to say:

"This is silly. How would you use nuclear weapons in Vietnam? I ask: Do you have any idea?"

Morale a Factor

"Personally, I would say whatever the President finds out he must do, I shall not criticize him. I do not know whether this war is going to escalate or de-escalate or anything else.

"I do know we must do whatever is necessary to win as quickly as possible. If not, the war will grow in costs, both in money and lives, and the Nation's morale will be lowered."

Apprehension that Gen. Eisenhower might be advocating use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam was voiced in some quarters after remarks he made recently in Chicago and in Washington.

In Washington, on Oct. 3, he was asked whether he would automatically preclude the use of nuclear weapons if he were President at this time. He replied:

"I would not automatically preclude the use of anything." Gen. Eisenhower, who will

observe his 76th birthday at his farm home here Friday, differed sharply with the Johnson Administration in the domestic policy area. But he showed no little irritation at the thought that anyone would attempt to drive a wedge between him and Mr. Johnson on the matter of how to conduct the Vietnam war.

Cautions GOP Candidates

This does not mean, necessarily, that Gen. Eisenhower endorses all the fine print of Vietnam policy. But he strongly believes that in war Americans ought to stand squarely behind the Commander in Chief.

In that connection the former President cautioned fellow Republicans seeking election to Congress Nov. 8 against trying to make an issue of Administration policy in Vietnam. He thinks such an effort would be very risky from a political standpoint, and that domestic issues such as spending and inflation danger offer GOP candidates much better opportunity to capitalize at the polls.

On matters in the domestic political area Gen. Eisenhower:

- Called it a reasonable conclusion that there was a white backlash factor in the primary victories of Democratic gubernatorial candidates Lester G. Maddox in Georgia and George P. Mahoney in Maryland.

- Said the best area of attack for Republicans running for Congress is what he regards as reckless spending and careless overheating of the economy under the Johnson Administration.