

Senators Favor Caution in Handling of Viet Problem

By Walter R. Mears
Associated Press

On the threshold of renewed congressional debate over Viet-Nam, many Senators share a sense of frustration and uncertainty over the course of the U.S.-backed war on Communism in Southeast Asia.

Eighty-three Senators spoke out in an Associated Press survey yesterday as Congress prepared for a long, hard look at the situation. Only a scattering advocated expansion of the war into Communist North Viet-Nam.

"The problem is tragically difficult," said Sen. Alan Bible, (D-Nev.), "but I believe we must continue to do everything possible under the present policy—increasing the emphasis on a stable and responsible Vietnamese government . . ."

Thirty-one of the Senators ready to prescribe a course voiced generally similar views, many of them suggesting negotiations later, when the anti-Communist forces are in a better bargaining position.

"It's a mistake to negotiate when losing," said Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.).

"We should do what we are doing," advised Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney, (D-Okla.), "but do it even better."

Negotiations Urged

Ten favored moving for negotiations now, some suggesting United Nations guidance toward a settlement based on neutrality.

Only three lawmakers —

Sens. John G. Tower (R-Tex.), Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Wallace (R-Utah)—spoke out flatly for expansion of the struggle into North Viet-Nam. Five others mentioned commitment of U.S. combat troops or action against North Viet-Nam as possible steps toward an end to the struggle.

Sen. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.) said the United States should not take either step unless the Nation is ready to face an all-out war that would include nuclear weapons.

"Expansion will not resolve the problem," said Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader. "It is more likely to enlarge it and in the end we may find ourselves engaged all over Asia in full-scale war."

On the other hand, three Senators called for withdrawal of U.S. advisers and military aid from the beleaguered Southeast Asian nation.

Pull-Out Proposed

Raising the spectre of a new Korea, Sen. Allen J. Ellender, (D-La.) said it is time for the United States to get out—"without any ifs or ands."

Three Senators urged steps to strengthen South Viet Nam's own government without specifically endorsing a U.S. course.

Eight lawmakers said they simply didn't know what should be done.

"I don't know how you get off a tiger's back," said one Senator, who declined to be identified.

Others refused to comment,

at least for the present.

Some said they would await the outcome of two Senate inquiries—one already under way by the Foreign Relations Committee, the other planned by the Armed Services Committee. Mansfield already has forecast a full-scale Senate debate on the situation.

One Republican Senator who asked to remain anonymous complained that Congress and the Nation haven't been given the facts.

Another Republican said, "A clear statement by the executive on the situation faced and what its objective in Viet-Nam is would be helpful to the American people, to the Congress and to the Vietnamese forces . . ."

Buffer Zone Urged

"I suggest the United Nations handle it, set up a buffer zone between North and South Viet-Nam and police it," said Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D-S.C.).

"I'd favor a settlement based on neutralization or to pull out," said Sen. A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.).

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) looked for evidence of new South Vietnamese determination. "U.S. combat units should be sent in only if the South Vietnamese make

a dramatic show of a greater will to win," she said.

If they lack that will, she said, it is questionable whether the United States should stay there at all.

Thurmond took the stiffest line.

"Give the South Vietnamese all the supplies they need and whatever aid they need to bomb North Vietnamese sup-

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Hanoi Says U.S. Ships Shelled N. Viet Village

TOKYO, Jan. 6 (AP)—North Viet-Nam charged that three warships of "the United States and its puppets" intruded into its waters early today and shelled a village.

(The U.S. Defense Department, asked in Washington about the charge, replied that "No U.S. ships were involved in any such incidents.")

The charge, broadcast by the Vietnamese News Agency (VNA) and heard here, was said to have been made in a protest message sent to the International Control Commission.

The message claimed that the alleged warships shelled Mui Doc, between Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces at 1:15 a.m.

But when a unit of the Viet-Nam People's Army returned fire, "the warships fled away," it claimed.

The message said the shelling was the second provocation against North Viet-Nam within three days by "the U.S. and its agents." It claimed the first shelling on another village took place Sunday.

Thai Navy to Respond If Cambodians Shoot

BANGKOK, Jan. 6 (AP) Thai Navy units were ordered today to shoot back if fired on by Cambodian vessels penetrating Thai territorial waters.

The Interior Ministry charged yesterday that 15 Cambodian troops aboard a seized Thai fishing boat moved into Thai waters on Dec. 27, killed four Thai fishermen

and seized their boat. The Ministry said a fifth Thai fisherman drowned.

The incident took place in Trad province, in the extreme southeast of Thailand.

Earlier this week Cambodia circulated a document at the United Nations charging Thailand with violating Cambodian waters in the same area on Dec. 6. Thailand denied this.