

Fulbright Assails Vietnamization Plan

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 —

Renewing his attacks on President Nixon's Vietnam policies, Senator J. W. Fulbright predicted today that the Administration's "Vietnamization" plan would mean "continuing terror and death for the indefinite future" for the Vietnamese people.

As defined by the Administration, Vietnamization is the process of gradually transferring combat responsibility from the United States to South Vietnamese troops as American units are gradually withdrawn from Vietnam.

But Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee described the process as "a continuing war of stalemate and attrition, with a reduced number of Americans reverting to their pre-1965 "advisory" role in a semi-permanent war of counterinsurgency."

Mr. Fulbright carried his personal anti-Administration campaign to a university forum at St. Louis today. His assault on Mr. Nixon's position was delivered in a memorial lecture for the late Senator Thomas C. Hennings of Missouri at Wash-

ington University in St. Louis. Its theme was "The War and Why We Must End It."

Senator Fulbright has sought since October to hold public hearings on the Vietnam war in the Foreign Relations Committee but these have been successively deferred in part because of the committee members' reluctance to take a collision course with President Nixon. Most of the members favor giving Mr. Nixon a chance to prove the validity of his Vietnamization approach.

The groups' present plans are to hold limited hearings next month on a number of resolutions before the Senate urging public timetables for the withdrawal of United States troops from South Vietnam.

But committee sources have indicated that the group would likewise consider the resolution submitted this week by Senator Charles McM. Mathias Jr., Republican of Maryland, to repeal the 1964 "Tonkin Gulf" resolution, which the Johnson Administration interpreted as authorizing the massive United States involvement in Vietnam.

Senator Fulbright, who in 1966 found the United States suffering from "the arrogance

of power," said today the country needed to "shake off the lingering effects of the narcotic of power."

"Power is a narcotic," he said, "a potent intoxicant, and America has been on a 'trip.'"

No Peril To U.S. Seen

The Senator maintained that the United States "has no vital security interest in the preservation of South Vietnam as an independent, non-Communist state."

"Indeed," he said, "the U. S. has no vital interest in whether South Vietnam is governed by Communists, non-Communists or a coalition; nor is it a matter of vital interest to the U.S. whether North and South Vietnam are united or divided.

"Our interest," he went on, "is in the prevalence, whatever its form, of indigenous Vietnamese nationalism; beyond that, strategic interest gives way to ideological preference — if not, indeed, to ideological obsession."

Mr. Fulbright declared that when the war's "political purposes are recognized as unworthy, as they have been in Vietnam, it is rank immorality to press on for a costly, destructive and probably unattainable victory."

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!