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A Prediction Of A-War In Vietnam

The next escalation of the Vietnam War will be the use of tactical nuclear weapons, a group of leftist Bay area lawyers predicted glumly yesterday.

"It's Nixon's next logical move in a war that's continually frustrating him," said Attorney Allan Brotsky.

Brotsky, together with three other lawyers, Doris Walker, John Thorne and Manuel Nestle, attended the Multi-National Toronto Conference on Indochina last weekend in Canada.

Two hundred lawyers from five countries who attended the meeting were reminded that as long ago as March 1955 Mr. Nixon, then Vice President, told a Chicago audience:

"Our artillery and our tactical air force in the Pacific are now equipped with atomic explosives which can and will be used on military targets with precision and effectiveness. . . . Tactical atomic explosives are now conventional. . . ."

The delegates — rather predictably — condemned the United States for "war crimes" and called for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia.

No such call for the withdrawal of other countries' forces — such as North Vietnam's — was made.

Mrs. Walker is president of the left-wing National Lawyers Guild. She insisted that Hanoi has a perfect right to keep its military forces in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Moreover, she said, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam should be allowed to decide the form of government they want for themselves without supervision of free elections by the United Nations.