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KY SEES LONG ROAD TO SELF-DEFENSE

But He Says Pace of Pullout
by U.S. Is Reasonable

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 18 (AP) — Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said today that it would take 15 or 20 years before South Vietnam was capable of defending itself, but he added that the current pace of American troop withdrawals was "reasonable."

The outspoken former air vice marshal, appearing at an impromptu press conference, accused the United States of supplying South Vietnam with obsolete aircraft. He also spoke against Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, who has sought information about charges that the Vice President was involved in opium smuggling.

"The day he comes here I will kick him out," Vice President Ky said of Senator McGovern. "He doesn't need to say, 'get out of Vietnam.' I will kick him out personally."

Senator McGovern, a critic of the war, is the only formally announced candidate for the Democratic nomination for President in 1972.

A-37 'for Women'

Commenting on aircraft supplied by the United States, he referred to the A-37 trainer and said, "This is for women."

The Vice President said he did not want a continuing American military presence in South Vietnam for many years and although he said that the current rate of United States withdrawal was reasonable, he questioned the meaning of the Vietnamization program, the process under which United States forces are transferring combat and defense responsibility to the South Vietnamese.

"The Vietnamization plan is not completed yet," he said, "so we still have many things to do not only in the military field but in other fields, socially, politically and economically."

"So if Vietnamization means South Vietnam strong, capable to defend itself, it will take 15 or 20 more years."

"But if Vietnamization means only to allow the withdrawal of American troops, then you can see the Vietnamization plan will be completed next year."

May Seek Presidency

President Nixon said Friday night that America would keep some forces in South Vietnam until the South Vietnamese had the capacity to defend themselves.

Vice President Ky said there was a "good possibility," that he would run for the presidency against the incumbent, Nguyen Van Thieu, in the election in October.

The Vice President took credit for initiating the Vietnamization program and said he agreed with Mr. Nixon that South Vietnamese troops could go it alone in the field.

"If we are not capable," he said, "then the Communists will defeat us."

He said United States ground troops could leave now, but that air support was still needed. He said that how long the support would be needed depended on "how quick you are going to help us have a strong air force to provide our own means for supporting our elements."

"Along with the equipment we have now," he said, "we cannot fight North Vietnam with its MIG-21's. We only have the old trainer, the A-37. This is for women. This is not a fighter plane."