

Ky Affirms Trip to U. S.

New York Times

Saigon

South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky went on Vietnamese television last night and confirmed that he will make his trip to attend the controversial pro-war "March for Victory" rally to be held October 3 in Washington.

"The forthcoming March for Victory will provide a good opportunity for us to raise our own voice and a good tribune from which we will be able to speak directly to the American people," the Vice President said in the 12-minute speech to the nation.

It was the first time Ky had committed himself publicly to participate in the rally, sponsored by the Rev. Carl McIntire, a fundamentalist right-wing preacher.

Officials in the Nixon Administration and American and South Vietnamese officials in

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Saigon had expressed apprehensions that the rally would aggravate anti-war feelings in America.

INVITATION

The Rev. Mr. McIntire flew to Saigon and urged Ky in a meeting on September 12 to keep his pledge and attend the rally, scheduled to be held on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

The Vice President said he will visit the United States "as a private Vietnamese citizen" at the invitation of a private American group, and that there would be no need for protocol or formalities.

Ky acknowledged that he had heard reports saying "that my presence would embarrass the Nixon Administration and American parties and cause difficulties to the coming elections in the United States."

But he said: "I am a Vietnamese and neither a member of the Democratic party nor the Republican party of the United States, how, then, can I cause difficulties for them? I do not have the intention of interfering the in internal affairs of the United States, nor any other country in the world."

He continued: "I am not a dove and, truly speaking, I am neither a hawk, I am going to speak to the American people as a fellow combatant, and I think as fellow

combatants, we should have a better mutual understanding.

RISKS

Ky said he is aware, nevertheless, of the "risks and dangers" involved in his trip, which is to begin tomorrow with a flight to Paris to the peace talks and then on to Washington.

The South Vietnamese vice president said he had received many cables and letters from individuals and associations in the United States and South Vietnam expressing approval of the trip. Some also expressed their concern about the risks involved. "But life and death have been predetermined and it is vain to struggle against fate," Ky added. "You cannot escape death. I only act according to the directives of my conscience and I will not retreat before any obstacle.

"If anything fatal should happen to me during this trip, then I only hope that my compatriots would remember it as a sacrifice of a soldier fighting for the right cause of the people and one of the many sacrifices of members of our armed forces and of the Vietnamese people during the long past years of painful struggle. I am determined to bring your voice to the United States. Your voice will be truly reflected."