

Mrs. Nhu Now Defends Reds as 'Nationalists'

In French Interview, She Calls for World Talks on Vietnam

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PARIS, July 18—Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu, sister-in-law of the late President of South Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem has published a long interview in France that is both sympathetic to Vietnamese Communists and violently anti-American.

Calling for an international peace conference to settle the war in Vietnam, she volunteers to attend as a representative "of the purest nationalists."

As for the Communists, she says: "They are Vietnamese like us, and nationalists like us. And like us they seek justice. The world condemns them only because to get there they employ criminal means."

Mrs. Nhu's comments, published in the weekly *LeNouvel Candide* and called "The Vitriolic Confidences of Madame Nhu," are in sharp contrast to statements she made in the days when she attracted international attention as one of the leading anti-Communists in Asia.

Coup Toppled Family

Mrs. Nhu's late husband was President Diem's brother and head of South Vietnam's political apparatus before the Ngo family was toppled from power in 1963 by a revolt of the military on Nov. 10, the date is now celebrated as National Day. President Diem and Mr. Nhu were assassinated by the military.

Mrs. Nhu, who was out of the country at the time of the revolt, now lives in Rome. She charges such high fees for interviews that her public statements are relatively few.

Mrs. Nhu gave the interview to Lucien Bodard, a French journalist long experienced in Indochina. He knew the Nhuses before they came to power and during the height of their power.

Mr. Bodard found her views



Associated Press

Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu

so different from those she expressed in the past that he wrote at the end of the article: "This is the last and most startling incarnation of Madame Nhu: The Pacifist, Humanist. To think that I remember her as the symbol of the crusade against Evil and against Communism!"

In the interview, Mrs. Nhu says that it was at her suggestion that her husband was having secret contacts with representatives of North Vietnam and that he was on the point of signing a peace treaty when the Americans, frightened, deliberately launched a coup d'etat and had the brothers murdered.

"I had even decided to make a fraternal gesture in sending my two oldest children to the north as pathfinders," she said. "I was touched by sharp nostalgia when I thought that they were going to see Hanoi, where

Says U.S. Had Diem Ousted to Block Peace With Hanoi

I was born, and all the beautiful sights of my youth."

Mrs. Nhu said that the Americans envisioned an expanding war and "It was the crime of my husband to be opposed to this war."

"The wrong of Nhu was not to believe in what the Americans call 'liberty' and which they preach to all," she said, "for that is the liberty of the jungle, which profits only the wealthy, only the powerful, and only the arrogant—that is to say, the Americans themselves. To the others they throw a few carrots, seasoned in plenty of humiliation, blackmail, threats and homicide."

Since the time of the coup, Mrs. Nhu said, the Americans have built up their expeditionary force, and are making "punitive expeditions, as if against the Apaches."

She said that all Vietnamese must get together and meet, not as enemies, but as brothers, and that an international or Asian peace conference must be called. There the Communists would be represented along with the "purest nationalists, that is to say the survivors of the Ngo family, their partisans and myself."