

AMS BUDGET

NIGHT LEAD U.S.-VIET NAM (ROUNDUP)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, APRIL 25 (AP)-SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE., SAID TODAY PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS CONDUCTING AN INTENSE RE-EXAMINATION OF U.S. POLICY IN VIET NAM WHEN HE WAS ASSASSINATED, AND "I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THE POLICIES WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD THE PRESIDENT LIVED...TO COMPLETE HIS REVIEW."

SET AGAINST THIS WHAT-MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN ASSERTION BY A LEADING CRITIC OF THE U.S. WAR ROLE WERE THESE TWO CONFLICTING ASSESSMENTS OF WHAT MUST BE DONW NOW:

--VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY TOLD THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS "WE MUST STAY AND SEE IT THROUGH."

--BUT SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., A POWER IN THE SENATE, SAID "WE SHOULD WITHDRAW NOW" IF A PUBLIC OPINION POLL IN SOUTH VIET NAM SHOULD SHOW A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE ANTI-AMERICAN.

MORSE SPOKE AS THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARD FORMER DIPLOMAT JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH CRITICIZE THE U.S. POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CALL FOR A STRATEGY BASED ON LIMITED DEFENSIVE ACTION.

GALBRAITH, HARVARD UNIVERSITY ECONOMIST AND FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, SAID AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH VIET NAM IS NOT POSSIBLE NOW BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO UNRAVEL HISTORY.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, SEN. STEPHEN M. YOUNG, D-OHIO, ACCUSED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA OF "A BLATANT MISSTATEMENT OF FACT" IN DENYING THAT THE VIET NAM FIGHTING CONSTITUTES A CIVIL WAR.

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YOUNG SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT VIET NAM NEVER WAS AND IS NOT NOW "OF STRATEGIC OR ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO THE DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES."

HUMPHREY'S "WE MUST STAY" STATEMENT WAS IN A SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK. ASSERTING THAT THE FREE NATIONS OF THE WORLD "NEED TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE VISION AND THE ENDURANCE" TO SEE IT THROUGH IN VIET NAM, HUMPHREY ADDED:

"THOSE WHO THREATEN THEIR NEIGHBORS IN ASIA SHOULD KNOW IT TOO. THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT WE WILL RESIST THEIR AGGRESSION."

HUMPHREY SAID PEACE IN ASIA DEPENDS ON WINNING THE WAR AGAINST "POVERTY, DISEASE AND DESPAIR" AS WELL AS AGAINST "THE CLASSIC POWER TACTICS OF COMMUNISM."

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AP WRITER JACK BELL, THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID INDIA AND JAPAN HAVE AGREED TO WORK TOWARD BRINGING ABOUT AN ASIAN PEACE CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT ELECTED IN SOUTH VIET NAM WILL "ASK FOR OUR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE."

RESPONDING TO THE SAME QUESTIONS THAT WERE PUT TO HUMPHREY, HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER GERALD R. FORD OF MICHIGAN SAID HE SEES VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT ANY ASIAN PEACE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE "UNDER THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT."

FORD SAID: "I SEE NO REASON WHY THERE CAN'T BE A SOUND GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET NAM THAT WILL JOIN IN FIGHTING THE ENEMY RATHER THAN FIGHTING THEMSELVES."

RUSSELL'S SUGGESTION THAT AMERICANS SHOULD PULL OUT IF A SURVEY SHOULD SHOW VIETNAMESE PUBLIC OPINION IS AGAINST THEM WAS CONTAINED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. HE SAID:

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"WE CAN'T POSSIBLY WIN IF WE ARE FIGHTING AN ENEMY IN FRONT OF US WHILE THE PEOPLE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING ARE AGAINST US AND WANT US OUT OF THEIR COUNTRY."

RUSSELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, CONTENDED A MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DISAGREES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF THE WAR, AND SAID "IF WE HAVE THE MEANS TO GET THIS WAR OVER, THEN WE SHOULD BRING IT TO A CONCLUSION AS SPEEDILY AS WE CAN."

MORSE SAID KENNEDY TOLD HIM 10 DAYS BEFORE HE WAS FELLED BY AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET IN DALLAS ON NOV. 21, 1963 THAT HE WAS RE-EXAMINING VIET NAM POLICY.

AND, MORSE ADDED, KENNEDY TOLD HIM HE WASN'T SURE THE SENATOR'S CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY WAS NOT WELL GROUNDED.

GALBRAITH TOLD THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON INHERITED A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN VIET NAM, AND HE SUGGESTED A DEFENSIVE STRATEGY DESIGNED TO HOLD LIMITED AREAS UNTIL "THE DAY WHEN SOME KIND OF BARGAIN CAN BE STRUCK IN SOUTH VIET NAM BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE NON-COMMUNISTS."

GALBRAITH SAID HE FRAMED A VIET NAM REPORT NEARLY FIVE YEARS AGO ADVISING KENNEDY AGAINST OVERT U.S. STEPS TO EITHER TOPPLE OR BRACE THE REGIME OF THEN PREMIER NGO DINH DIEM. IN RETROSPECT,

THE FORMER DIPLOMAT SAID, HE WISHES THE REPORT HAD ADVOCATED
U.S. WITHDRAWAL.

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