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U.S. VIETNAM AIDE QUITS IN 'DISGUST'

Sees No Chance of Success
for Pacification Effort
NYTimes

DANANG, South Vietnam, Nov. 15 (AP) — Willard E. Chambers, a senior official in the American pacification program in South Vietnam, has resigned his \$42,000-a-year job "in sheer disgust with the leadership and the philosophy being applied" to what he calls a much maligned cause.

Although protest resignations have occurred occasionally during the Vietnam war, rarely if ever has a United States official as senior as Mr. Chambers quit under such circumstances.

After more than six years as a civilian official in South Vietnam, Mr. Chambers said in his final report to the pacification agency:

"I am no longer willing to remain patient with the parade of overranked nonentities whose actions reflect their own ignorance of Vietnam, of the peculiarities of a people's war and of the requirements of counterinsurgency."

Retired Army Officer

Mr. Chambers, 55 years old of Columbus, Ohio, holds the title of assistant deputy for CORDS—"civil operations and rural development support"—in Military Region I, meaning he is the second-ranking official in the pacification program for the five northern provinces of South Vietnam.

Mr. Chamber, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, said in an interview that he had always supported the United States policy of trying to prevent a Communist takeover of South Vietnam. "But we just don't know how to do it," he said.

Both politically and militarily, he said, the Americans have been unable to carry out policies capable of defeating the insurgent forces.

It is disturbing, he said, to contemplate the future because "your enemy always poses for you that type of war where he figures you will be at the greatest disadvantage, and having demonstrated how inept we can be at this kind of war here in Vietnam, certainly our enemies will give us the chance to be equally inept somewhere else."

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There were three things that had to be done to achieve victory in South Vietnam "in any acceptable time frame at all," Mr. Chambers said, and none of the three has been accomplished.

"The first is you've got to give the people a dream, something to fight for; the second is military reform, and the third is you've got to give hope," he said.

He said the only dream or ideology offered by the Saigon Government had been "in the negative terms of anti-Communism." "And to the uncommitted," he said, "a negative value isn't a very good sales pitch."

In terms of hope, he said, "The only thing that we offer the soldier out there in his outpost is, 'If you'll fight hard enough and aggressively enough, someday, somehow, the other guy is going to get tired and go home.'"

Finds Reform Frustrated

"The soldier is not dumb, and he knows that what that really says to him is that if he keeps on fighting, sooner or later he's going to get his."

Efforts at military reform have also been frustrated, he said.

"We have inflicted upon the South Vietnamese people an army created in our own image and an army even more inept than ours in dealing with their present threat," he said.

Mr. Chambers said he had spent years, both in the Army and out, trying to convince the United States Government of the need not just for firepower but for increased mobility if Americans were going to become involved in counterinsurgency warfare. But, he said, his efforts had been frustrated by military planners.

Although the helicopter has "kept us alive in Vietnam," Mr. Chambers said, the helicopter alone is inadequate and does not increase the mobility of troops after they have reached the battlefield.

"The job that had to be done here," he said, "was to sponsor a social, economic and military revolution. But we had to entrust it to an entrenched bureaucracy made up of the American civil service and the Vietnamese civil service."

"A civil service is by definition the direct antithesis of revolution. It is designed to provide for the orderly functioning of government, while revolution is the change of that government."