

7-24-70

The Ky Visit

Questions for the
Vice President

See also 24 Sep 70, filed

Indochina/Comment

By Frank Mankiewicz
and Tom Braden

Washington

UNLESS HE EXPERIENCES a last-minute change of heart, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam will be in our midst within the week, to speak at a far-right "victory" rally at the Washington Monument grounds.

The rally is sponsored by the Rev. Carl McIntyre, a fundamentalist radio pitchman who has characterized the Nixon Administration this year as "soft on communism" and has termed the President's Vietnamization policy a "sellout." In Saigon, officials close to President Thieu are writing their American friends that Ky's motives in speaking here are "to undermine both Presidents, Nixon and Thieu."



If Ky makes himself available to U.S. journalists, here is a suggested list of questions that might be asked, all based on material previously made public, either in the U.S. or Vietnamese press:

1—Mr. Vice President, how do you account for the \$15,000 per week you personally receive from the receipts of the Saigon race track? You have told us your people are fully mobilized for this war; if that is the case, just who goes to the races every day so as to enable the track to show a profit sufficient to pay you? (In 1967, Ky admitted he was receiving this money and said he used it from time to time to pay disabled veterans. He had, up to that time, paid out the total sum of \$65 for this purpose.)

2—Your protege, Gen. Do Cao Tri, has been much praised this year as the "Tiger of Cambodia" for his leadership of your troops there. What was his final explanation for the package he sent to Hong Kong earlier this year which was unexpectedly opened in customs and found to contain 71 million piasters in cash (official U.S. equivalent: \$600,000)? Why would anyone want to send that many piasters out of the country, where they were practically worthless, unless to be used illegally — or by the enemy—for purchases back in South Vietnam?

3—Mr. President, your old comrade, Gen. Dang Van Quang, is back in office as chief of intelligence. When you and he shared power as members of the "Military Revolutionary Council," he was the commander of IV Corps until dismissed for corruption. Did he ever make restitution for the money he took from his own soldiers?

4—What about your other colleague from the old days of the council, Gen. Cao Van Vien, now the South Vietnamese chief of staff? Do he and his wife still lease government-owned real estate to Americans? Do they still own bordello hotels at the recreation center at Nho Trang?

5—Mr. Vice President, why was your mother-in-law, Mme. Hoang, who owns a string of "resorts" in Saigon, permitted to be the sole bidder on a construction contract at an air base to be used by the United States?

6—Finally, Mr. Vice President, what about that old smuggling rap? Back in 1964, when the CIA had set you up as the "commander" of a fictitious airline to fly South Vietnamese agents into the North, you were fired for using the planes to smuggle opium and gold from Laos. Whatever happened to the 250 pounds of gold and the 450 pounds of opium which were seized? And your collaborator, Gen. Loc, who was fired as a result of the exposure from his post as director-general of customs in Saigon—did he ever hold his job back?