

See NYTimes 3 Dec 70, this file

## ***Guerrilla Specialist Says He Reassured Nixon on Vietnam***

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AP)—Sir Robert Thompson, an adviser to President Nixon on the war in Vietnam, said today that the United States Vietnamization and pacification policies were "unassailable by the enemy."

In a telephone interview from his home in Somerset, in the west of England, Sir Robert said he reported his conclusion to the President at a meeting in October.

He declined to give further details of the meeting, but added: "I am optimistic about the future. When I look back over the last two years I find that developments are now taking a very encouraging trend."

"The situation at the end of this year as compared with the same time last year shows a good, steady improvement," he said.

Sir Robert established his reputation as a specialist in guerrilla warfare during the successful campaign against Communists in Malaya during the nineteen-fifties.

On Dec. 2 The New York Times quoted Washington officials as having said that the report to Mr. Nixon concluded that United States and allied efforts had failed to destroy the Communist subversive apparatus in South Vietnam.

Sir Robert declined to deal specifically with this report but said: "It is only natural that President Nixon should come under pressure over the conduct of the war. It's not just a matter of hawks and doves — and, incidentally, I don't like these terms — but there are many views on how this problem should be dealt with."

He said that he saw no reason why the United States policy of Vietnamizing the war by withdrawing troops and turning most of the fighting over to the South Vietnamese should not continue according to schedule.

"I believe the target for next May is for the force to be reduced to 280,000 men," he said. "I think we should be able to reach this figure without any difficulty."