

Ky Against Drive to North

Saigon

Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said yesterday a South Vietnamese invasion of North Vietnam to topple its Communist government and unify Vietnam "is not possible."

"There is only one way (to end the war), a political solution or an agreement," he said at a news conference.

"Both parts of Vietnam

must stop the war, rebuild the country. We are not going to fight and kill each other forever. The question is how to reach an agreement to stop the war.

"If we use the Army to invade North Vietnam, to topple their government and unify the country, it is not possible. It is not possible because our forces and the international situation do not permit that," Ky said.

THIEU

In a speech Saturday at Hue, South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu said the South Vietnamese Army is capable of successfully invading North Vietnam.

Ky criticized U.S. military planners for "providing obsolete equipment" to the South Vietnamese Air Force and thereby making continued U.S. support vital.

"How quickly are they

(U.S. military men) going to help us to have a strong air force to provide means, all means, for supporting (ground troop) elements?" Ky asked.

PLANES

"We have the old training A-37," he said. "This is a plane for women, you know that. This is not a fighting plane."

The South Vietnamese Air Force also has a number of supersonic F-5 Freedom Fighters, which are considerably slower than the MIG-21s of the North Vietnamese Air Force.

Recent reports from Washington indicate the U.S. Air Force is considering equipping the South Vietnamese Air Force with a special, stripped version of the F-4 Phantom, which has a performance equal to or superior to that of the MIG-21.