

# World reaction to U.S. position

United Press International  
"We are about to see the strategic surrender of the United States."

That is the assessment of the Indochina situation by British Brig. Sir Robert Thompson, who once advised former President Nixon on battle strategy in that area.

"I also do not see America standing by Israel. The American withdrawal from Indochina is the greatest retreat the world has seen

since Napoleon himself retreated from Moscow," Thompson said.

In Europe and the Middle East, criticism of U.S. involvement in Indochina was widespread and bitter at the height of the war.

Now, a UPI survey shows, opinion is sharply divided on whether the United States should increase aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia and on whether failure to do so will, as the Ford Administration warns, undercut American credibility in oth-

er areas.

The Arab press has quoted Syrian President Hafez Assad as telling Secretary of State Kissinger that American failure to back South Vietnam and Cambodia means the U.S. commitment to Israel also is in doubt.

Ahmed Al Sabeh, a Beirut office worker, said the Communist gains in Indochina show that "any country with the United States as its ally is not invincible and this is an important lesson for us in the Arab World."

## in Indochina

In Israel, the Jerusalem Post expressed concern over American policy: "The issue for the future is how the events in Indochina are going to affect America's understanding of its world role. As the dominoes fall, will the U.S. . . . realize anew that a great power must also assume the moral responsibility of inaction, which also shapes events?"

The view that American credibility is at stake was voiced by the London Daily Express, which commented, "The Israelis are going to

draw bitter conclusions from the events in Southeast Asia

. . . Great nations cannot conduct foreign policy on the vote-getting basis of catching the public mood of the moment."

But there is much support in Europe for the opposing view.

Switzerland's Journal de Geneve advocated gradual withdrawal of U.S. aid over a three-year period and said U.S. engagement in Indochina "is contrary to good sense."