

Ford Accused on Asian Statements

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Former Undersecretary of State George Ball accused President Ford yesterday of "giving confirmation to enemy propaganda" in his assessments of U.S. obligations in Southeast Asia.

Ball also said Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was guilty of "very foolish talk" on the same issue.

Ball said he favors complete cessation of military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia and predicted that those nations will soon be ruled by Communists.

In an interview on ABC-TV's, "Issues and Answers," Ball, undersecretary to Dean Rusk in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, was asked about Mr. Ford's assertion that failure to send more military aid to South Vietnam would undermine U.S. credibility everywhere.

"He was giving confirmation to enemy propaganda, the propaganda of the people who are really against us," Ball said.

"Take the situation that occurred actually in the Middle East, where (Egypt's President Anwar Sadat was saying, 'we don't need the American promise because the American promise isn't any good: look what's happened in Vietnam

"We shouldn't have confirmed that, as we appeared to do. by saying, he's abso-

lutely right, you know, you can't believe us."

Ball was reminded that Kissinger also said American weakness in Southeast Asia might have helped undermine his recent Middle East negotiations.

"I think that is very foolish talk," he replied. "... Why should we give confirmation to a propaganda line that is used against us?"

Ball predicted that Communist governments — independent of Moscow and Peking — will inevitably replace the U.S.-backed governments of South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

"The underlying assumption of the 'domino theory' is ... that an area such as North Vietnam was acting as simply an instrument of the Soviet or Chinese governments," he said.

"This quite clearly is not the case. What will develop in that part of the world is the dominance of South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos by a government which is a Communist government, but a kind of 'Titoist' Communist government, which resents very much Peking and resents very much Moscow, and it certainly doesn't mean an extension of the power of the great Communist nations."

Ball referred to Yugoslavia's President Tito, who withdrew from the formal Soviet bloc during the Stalin era and pursued an independent policy course.

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