

# U.S. MAY SHELTER SOME VIETNAMESE

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## Ford Said to Weigh Rescue of Saigon Aides Facing Possible Red Reprisal NYTimes

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 9 — President Ford is considering contingency plans to evacuate thousands of South Vietnamese whose lives might be in jeopardy in the event of a Communist takeover, Government officials said today.

The plans were reported discussed today at a National Security Council meeting that reviewed American policy especially in Southeast Asia.

Under the still tentative plans, the United States might evacuate South Vietnamese who have worked for the United States Government as well as Saigon Government officials and military officers who might be subject to Communist reprisals.

The decisions on military and humanitarian aid as well as on the possible evacuation of South Vietnamese will be announced by Mr. Ford in a foreign policy speech to a joint session of Congress tomorrow at 9 P.M.

In a preview for Congressional leaders this afternoon, Mr. Ford reportedly said that it would be "the most serious speech I as President will ever give to Congress." The President made clear that he would appeal for bipartisan support of foreign policy as it is revised in wake of setbacks in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

According to the White House, the President told the Congressional leaders:

"If Congress and the President cooperate, we can move forward to new successes. We need a strong working relationship."

Mr. Ford also emphasized, according to the Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of

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Pennsylvania, that he was not going "to do any finger-pointing of blame" for recent setbacks in foreign policy.

"We are beyond that now," Mr. Ford was quoted by Senator Scott as having said. "Nothing is to be gained by indulging in who is to blame for what."

The President reportedly recited the setbacks the United States has suffered in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Cyprus and Portugal, and then held out hope for new successes if Congress were to give broad bipartisan support.

Communist reprisals because of their association with the United States.

The consensus, according to officials, is that the United States has a moral obligation to such South Vietnamese and would have to be prepared to evacuate them.

At his meeting with Congressional leaders, Mr. Ford reportedly refused to discuss the possible evacuation of South Vietnamese. He said, according to one Republican Senator, that anything said now about evacuation would "create an unfortunate atmosphere" in Saigon.

Estimates of how many South Vietnamese may have to be evacuated range widely, already making plans for evacuating 6,000 Americans, have been talking in terms of a few thousand South Vietnamese. Senator John Tower, Republican of Texas, said "up-

"I must say that Jerry was the most tense and the most serious in the 23 years I have known him," Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the House Democratic leader, said after the meeting.

Mr. Ford reportedly parried all questions about what he would specifically recommend in his speech, which was still being drafted. He declined to say whether he would recommend additional military aid.

Before the President is a recommendation from Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the Army Chief of Staff, for \$200-million in military aid in addition to the \$300-million already requested. Any request for military aid was likely to be rejected by Congress.

The White House said after the meeting with Congressional leaders that Mr. Ford would recommend humanitarian aid.

While there is overwhelming support in Congress for humanitarian aid, some controversy could develop over the procedures. At a meeting earlier this week, Senate Democratic leaders opposed direct governmental aid, largely because of their distrust of the Saigon Government. Some Democrats favor channeling the aid through international and private relief organizations.

In the view of Senate Democrats, the use of international agencies would avoid the potentially difficult political question of continuing to provide humanitarian aid in the event all of South Vietnam becomes Communist.

Aside from providing aid to refugees and war victims, high-level attention is being given to the problem of protecting tens of thousands of South Vietnamese who might face

wards of 170,000 South Vietnamese face death if captured by the Communists."

State Department officials would not dispute the Tower estimate. They said that if all South Vietnamese who had worked for United States agencies were included, the number could run as high as one million.

While the Defense Department could readily evacuate a few thousand South Vietnamese, the evacuation of tens of thousands would call for a much larger effort than now apparently planned by the Pentagon.

### Rockefeller Is Gloomy

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, April 9 — Vice President Rockefeller, declaring that this was "a moment of trial for the free world

and the American people," appealed today for cooperation between Congress and the executive branch to develop "a strong common and consistent foreign policy."

The Vice President gave a gloomy assessment of the international scene in a speech before the American Newspaper Publishers Association here. After the speech Mr. Rockefeller said he had expressed the President's policies, not his own.

He talked of the "tragedy" in Southeast Asia and the "incalculable dangers" of the Middle East. He described the leftist trend in Portugal as "perhaps the most tragic of all in terms of the future of freedom in the world."