

Indochina
Roundup

Ky Says U.S. Not to

AGANA, Guam — The United States is not to blame for the fall of South Vietnam, Nguyen Cao Ky, the former premier and vice-president, said on arrival here Monday.

"Concerning America and the American people, in the last 10 years, you did a lot for us—too much in my opinion," Ky said.

Ky was flown to Guam directly after arriving by ship in the Philippines. He spent only 10 minutes on Philippine soil, to avoid problems with the Philippine government, which has said it does not want political and military refugees from South Vietnam.

Ky said he had actively plotted a coup against former President Nguyen Van

Thieu to install either himself or Tran Van Lam, president of the Saigon senate, as president.

He said he expected reprisals against some of the South Vietnamese still in the country but no "massive massacre."

Ky said he expects to go to the United States and eventually become a U.S. citizen.

"I think some American friend will find a job for me," Ky said. "I don't have much money. I never had much money. I am not Mr. Thieu."

Ky smiled, but shrugged off suggestions that he might try to become the leader of the Vietnamese exiles. He said, however, that

he intends to go to Washington in behalf of the exiles.

Catholics in Hanoi

HANOI—About 2,500 Vietnamese Roman Catholics attended early morning mass at the Hanoi cathedral on their first Sunday of peace in a generation, Dan De Luce of the Associated Press reported.

The majority of the congregation appeared under 30 and included many young children whose responses during the service led by a bishop seemed letter perfect. The choir was composed of young male singers accompanied by a manually pumped organ.

"One-third of the Catholic churches established in French times are still in religious use," a French observer said. "A Catholic

X SEE NYTIMES

Blame for Saigon's Fall

seminary exists in Hanoi, where 50 Vietnamese are studying for the priesthood. Nuns assist the bishop in training Catholic children in catechism at the cathedral outside school hours."

The Frenchman said there are 1 million practicing Catholics in North Vietnam.

Photographer Killed

PARIS—Michel Laurent, a Pulitzer prize-winning photographer, was killed April 28 covering one of the last battles in South Vietnam, the Gamma photo agency announced.

Laurent's death raises to 57 the number of Western journalists killed or listed as missing in the Indochina fighting.

Laurent, 29, was hit during action 15 miles northeast of Saigon and died on

the spot, the agency said. His body was identified Saturday by the French ambassador in Saigon, who found Laurent buried at the scene of the clash.

"We presume he was killed by stray bullets," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Laurent won a Pulitzer prize for his photographs in Bangladesh in 1971. He also had covered the Biafra war and had spent almost a year in Vietnam on an earlier tour.

Troops in Thailand

BANGKOK—At least 7,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Thailand by the end of July, according to Deputy Prime Minister Pramarn Adireksan.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minis-

ter Chatichai Choonhavan denied a local press report which quoted him as saying that half of the 23,000 U.S. troops in Thailand would be withdrawn by the end of June.

From staff reports and news dispatches