

Viets Say Humphrey Pledged Aid

AGANA, Guam, May 8 (AP)—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) assured South Vietnamese leaders in 1972 that they could count on American military support if the North Vietnamese attacked, a former South Vietnamese foreign minister said today.

Tran Van Do, foreign minister from 1965 to 1968 and head of the South Vietnamese negotiating team in Geneva in 1954, said he met with several senators in Washington in December 1972.

"I told Sen. Humphrey that if we sign the 1973 peace treaty, he must promise to assist us. Economic assistance is all right, but if they resume fighting, can we rely on you?" said Do, who is now living in a refugee camp here.

"He told me, 'Of course, and public opinion will swing in our favor,'" said Do.

Despite assurances from Humphrey, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and others, Do said he returned to warn President Nguyen Van Thieu not to count on American support.

"I think Mr. Thieu's mistake was that he counted on American support. He was convinced you could not let us down," said Do.

[In Washington, an aide to Sen. Humphrey said that he had no comment on Do's assertion.]

Tran Van Lam, former president of the South Vietnamese Senate, foreign minister in 1973 and one of the signers of the Geneva treaty, shared Do's criticism of the United States.

"If the United States during the last few days had shown some small decision, even a threat to North Vietnam to tell them to stop, it would have helped the morale of the troops of South Vietnam."