



Associated Press

At ecumenical service in Roman Catholic cathedral in Saigon, from left: Bishop Paul Nguyen Van Binh, Gen. Creighton W. Abrams and Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Ambassador.

Abrams a Reader at Service in Saigon

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 27—Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, commander of American troops in Vietnam, and United States Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker were lay readers in a sparsely attended Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Peace, Brotherhood and Christian Unity this afternoon in the Roman Catholic Cathedral here.

General Abrams, who was converted to Roman Catholicism while in Vietnam, led a responsive reading of the litany of reconciliation that is said weekly in the sanctuary of the old bombed-out Coventry Cathedral in England. "All have sinned and come

short of the glory of God, the hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, Father forgive," read the general in his Khaki uniform.

Ambassador Bunker, a protestant, read 20 verses from the ninth book of Genesis including the passage: "From a man also I will require satisfaction for the death of his fellow man. He that sheds the blood of a man, for that man his blood shall be shed."

There was no specific mention of the current Indochina war during the service.

The British Ambassador, J. O. Moreton, was the third lay reader.

It was the first such Ecumenical Christian service in the cathedral.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Saigon, the Most Rev. Paul Nguyen Van Binh, presided and gave the benediction, although there were few Vietnamese among the 50 or so people in the cathedral.

President Nguyen Van Thieu, a Catholic, did not attend. Three hours later, he attended a high mass in the cathedral commemorating the anniversary of the coronation of Pope Paul VI.

The cathedral was filled to capacity with Vietnamese.