

Thieu Wants to Live in United States

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Confidential cables from the U.S. embassy in Taiwan report that South Vietnam's deposed President Nguyen Van Thieu wants to settle permanently in the United States.

American diplomats have done their best, however, to discourage the idea. They fear that the Vietnam issue is still too hot and that Thieu's arrival might touch off demonstrations.

But they fully expect Thieu will eventually move to the United States. As one source put it: "It's not a question of if; it is a question of when."

Thieu fled Saigon shortly before the victorious Communists moved in and secured refuge in Taiwan. He is now ensconced in a five-bedroom house in a residential compound outside Taipei.

Behind the high walls are a swimming pool and a garden, where Thieu lolls in seeming tranquillity. But the embassy cables indicate that Thieu is unhappy in Taipei and would like to join the South Vietnamese community in America.

Footnote: The Chinese Nationalists, who respect Thieu as an "anti-Communist leader," provide him with police protection. Their main function, apparently, is to keep the press at

bay. Thieu has refused to give interviews.

Telephone Monitoring—The Central Intelligence Agency monitored all telephone calls between the United States and Latin America for three months, apparently, without the knowledge of the telephone company.

We checked into this illegal telephone monitoring several months ago. Both the CIA and the Bell System flatly denied the story. Now the Rockefeller commission has confirmed that the calls were monitored in late 1973 until the CIA's general counsel put a stop to it.

A spokesman for the Bell System still assures us the company "had no knowledge of any wiretapping by the CIA and did not at any time provide any assistance to the agency in connection with wiretapping, eavesdropping or otherwise monitoring of any telephone calls between the United States and any foreign countries, including

those in Latin America."

We have learned, however, that the Bell System provided the CIA with traffic information on calls between the United States and both Russia and China.

This information, a spokesman explained, "was not furnished with respect to any particular callers but rather on all calls. It included only the names, telephone numbers and locations of the parties involved and the date, time and duration of any completed calls. The information provided did not disclose the content of any conversation."

World Traveler—The delightful if irascible Helen Delich Bentley, who has just resigned as chairwoman of the Federal Maritime Commission, hasn't spent much time on the job.

She has been too busy seeing the world. In 1974, for example, she took 36 trips to such pleasure spots as Geneva, London, Paris, San Francisco and her hometown of Reno. Her airline

bills cost the taxpayers more than \$15,000.

Partly as a result of her constant junketing, the cases before the Federal Maritime Commission are backlogged four years. Her fellow commissioners have pleaded with her to attend to her duties, but she has merely given them the brush-off.

Two commissioners, Clarence Morse and Ashton Barrett, were willing to go on the record. They called Ms. Bentley a poor administrator. "She's a square peg in a round hole," said Morse.

They complained that she treated the commission as her personal domain. For instance, they said she usually ties up both of the commission's available limousines on personal errands. Her chauffeur has his own office near hers, they said.

For her part, Ms. Bentley said her world wanderings were official business as she defines the guidelines. She also insisted that, so far as she knew, the commission has only two cases pending.

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