

Some more questions for Saigon's Mr. Ky

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WASHINGTON — Six weeks ago, when Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky was about to visit these parts, we posed some questions for the air marshal. They concerned the weekly receipts he receives in personal profit from the Saigon Race-track, his associations with corrupt generals and his own record as a smuggler. The Nixon Administration succeeded — in the nick of time — in postponing Ky's visit until after the election. But now that he is here for an informal visit, here are some further questions:

No. 1 — The general you chose when you took over the Cambodian operation, Gen. Do Cao Tri, is still in command in the field. You recall his failure to explain the circumstances under which he sent 71 million piasters — in cash — to his uncle in Hong Kong (about \$600,000 in U.S. dollars). But now, at Bien Hoa, Gen. Tri is running a thriving black market in gasoline, oil and Cambodian antiquities. Is that how he managed to buy his Mercedes? For that matter, out of what funds were you able to purchase a DC-6 for your personal use?

No. 2 — When the circumstances surrounding Tri's \$600,000 cash shipment came out, and Sen. Nguyen Van Chuc asked about it, Gen. Tri's reply was to threaten to "have him shot." Is there any connection between that and the fact that Chuc's house was bombed a few days later?

No. 3 — What about Assemblyman Tran Ngoc Chau? This is the man who worked for U. S. Intelligence, according to the testimony of, among others, John Paul Vann, pacification chief in IV Corps.

Chau gave the United States information received from his brother, a Viet Cong agent, which made the Tet offensive of 1968 a less devastating setback than it would otherwise have been.

When Chau was jailed by President Thieu for "contact with the enemy,"

Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker threw him to the wolves and would not intervene. But, Mr. Vice President, your supreme court has now ruled three times that Chau was illegally tried and convicted, and illegally deprived of his legislative immunity. He remains in jail, because President Thieu, with Bunker's support, has defied the court and will not release him. You talk a lot, Mr. Vice President, about your country's national "honor." Is any of it involved here?

No. 4 — Do you plan to discuss with President Nixon or Vice President Agnew the problem of Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi? When Gen. Thi was commanding I Corps in 1966, you did not hesitate to discuss him with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and his assistant, Philip Habib.

You recall, surely, the circumstances under which Gen. Thi, at your request, was deposed by Gen. William Westmoreland.

It was Thi's dismissal, as you know best, which touched off the student and Buddhist riots of 1966; they claimed that Gen. Thi was the only honest corps commander.

There is a precedent for discussing the case with President Nixon; his predecessor, whom you so impressed at Honolulu, sent Air Force One to Hawaii in the summer of 1966 to bring Gen. Thi into exile.

No. 5 — If you discuss law and order with Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew (as many do) will you bring up the recent attack on the home of Assemblyman Ngo Cong Duc? Duc's house was destroyed by fire and bombing after his coalition peace proposal was published. Your government said it was the work of the Viet Cong, but is your security so weak that the enemy can operate within one block of a large police post?