

How to End the War — Now



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By DON LUCE

SAIGON, South Vietnam—The invasions of Laos and Cambodia are no solution for the people of Indochina. Nor is Vietnamization. The Nixon plan to "end" the war fails to take into consideration that a negotiated political compromise is the only way to peace.

system? Who, we must ask ourselves, is encouraging the spread of violence?

The Saigon government and American advisers now speak of moving more than a million refugees from central Vietnam to the delta. This is testimony of the Government's failure to control the central Vietnamese and reveals their pathetic lack of understanding for regional ethnic differences and the importance of the ancestral land. In the highlands, 20,000 Montagnards are being moved in a "Gathering People for Hamlet Establishment" campaign. American helicopters and army trucks, given in the aid program, descend on the tribal people and forcefully carry them to crowded urban centers. Their animals, ceremonial gongs and burning long-houses are left behind.

A third of all the South Vietnamese have been moved from their traditional village surroundings into refugee camps and city slums. The fathers fight in one army or the other. Mothers wash clothes for foreign soldiers. Daughters become "hootch mates" or prostitutes. Young children shine shoes, pimp, wash and watch cars and sell peanuts. They live undisciplined lives away from the needed direction of fathers and mothers.

The basic family unit has been almost destroyed by the war and by American social scientists who believe "profit incentives" are the basic underlying drive in all human beings.

The following proposal is submitted as an alternative to continuing the death and social destruction.

I. The United States will:

- a) Not bomb or invade North Vietnam.
- b) Immediately end all bombing, artillery bombardment and combat operations.
- c) Immediately withdraw all U.S. troops and air support from Indochina.
- d) Propose and respect an immediate embargo on all weapons, ammunition and military equipment going into Indochina.

II. The National Liberation Front will:

- a) Not shoot U.S. forces as they withdraw.
- b) Allow international inspection of all camps holding U.S. prisoners.
- c) Release all American prisoners upon completion of U.S. withdrawal.

III. The United States will offer its economic assistance through the United Nations and other mutually acceptable international organizations on the condition that all political prisoners are released.

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creased from \$21 million to \$30 million this fiscal year. Meanwhile, budgets for two of the most needed areas of foreign assistance, health and education, are being cut back.

John Mossler, director of the Agency for International Development, described the police efforts in the 1970 "Report to the Ambassador." "During 1970," he wrote, "the police continued to improve their capability in traditional police functions. Their timely and positive action effectively contained civil disturbances including war veterans, students, and religious groups, thereby preventing the spread of violence."

How can we expect to promote understanding with the people of a country when our highest officials publicly brag about "containing" the war-wounded veterans, the students, and the religious groups? What has happened to our priorities when six times more aid is given to a repressive police force than to the education

Many people here echo the statement of fourteen Vietnamese religious, labor, social welfare, youth, and political groups which said: "The action of sending Vietnamese troops into Laos in order to decrease the loss of American forces according to President Nixon's declaration reveals the submissive nature of Nguyen Van Thieu's Government. The lives of Vietnamese young men are cannon fodder for the American expeditionary soldiers in Indochina."

Repression grows steadily. The Vietnamese police force is being bolstered from 97,000 to 122,000 this year. U.S. aid to "public safety" is being in-