

Hanoi's 'Blood Bath' Lists

IF WE SHOULD terminate our air support of South Vietnamese operations prematurely it could be the crime of the century.

"The Human Cost of Communism in Vietnam," a study prepared for the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, makes plain the extent of the tragedy that would almost certainly ensue if Vietnamization is allowed to fail.

AS THE STUDY SAYS, it is "impossible to provide mathematical proof for the proposition that a Communist victory in South Vietnam would result in a bloodbath." But "every serious student of Vietnamese affairs" believes the final toll of human butcheries would lie somewhere between Professor P. J. Honey's projection of one million and the prediction of three million made by Colonel Tran Van Dac, a North Vietnamese defector.

The contributors represented in the subcommittee study base their estimates on what has already happened in the two Vietnams, North and South.

Ho Chi Minh began slowly when a "coalition government" ruled in Hanoi in 1945, killing 10,000 in a two-month period. By 1947, when the charade was over, Ho Chi Minh had eliminated all potential political rivals including the whole influential Trotskyist movement.

This was only the first installment. After

the Geneva agreement of 1954 had confirmed Ho's control in Hanoi, a so-called agrarian reform wiped out the richer farmers in village after village. Bernard Fall says 50,000 were executed and 100,000 imprisoned. Hoang Van Chi, a leading nationalist who held posts under Ho Chi Minh, says the post-Geneva toll was 500,000.

The count of victims in the Hue massacre that was part of the 1968 Tet offensive was originally set at 3000. But a prominent specialist on Vietnam, Douglas Pike, who adds in the missing Hue civilians, thinks that 5700 were killed on the basis of a prepared list of names.

All of which gives ominous point to the statement of the North Vietnamese defector, Le Xuan Chuyen, who spent 21 years in the Communist Party, that five million South Vietnamese are on Hanoi's "blood debt" lists. He adds that ten to fifteen percent of these would pay with their lives, another forty percent would be jailed, and the rest would have to undergo "thought reform."

EVERY SINGLE solitary victim of Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Ho and the rest of the bloody Marxist butchers was born a unique baby and most of them grew up to have his or her dreams. How many more do we want to risk sending to the grave by premature removal of our air cover from South Vietnam?