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Do Old Wars Too Just Fade Away?

President Nguyen Van Thieu, considered by an increasing number of Americans as a luxury we can ill afford, told Henry Kissinger's assistant not to fret. "The war will simply fade away," he said.

It will. Even the Hundred Years' War faded away. But there is something particularly exasperating about the perennial prediction in high Saigon circles that their war is petering out. In the estimation of, first, Nguyen Cao Ky and, later, Thieu, this war has been teetering on the brink of a fadeaway for six or seven years. Just about every correspondent ever granted an interview at the Palace has been assured of that.

Pressed for details on this predicted phenomenon, Ky once told us, "We'll know when it starts to fade away. We'll detect the signal from the north. One day they will not shoot as they did the day before. And the day after that will be even quieter. We will know."

He was asked how the Americans would know. Ky gave us his familiar grin and his best Captain Midnight manner.

"You'll be the first we tell," he said.

Hope his successor, Thieu, will be equally generous.

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BEST YOUNG ACTOR I've seen in years is "Ward, star of "Young Winston," an overlong marvelous flim based on Churchill's " There are other wondrous players name Anne Bancroft, plavi American mother, Randolph Ch hapless