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## Of Saigon Aid and Dulles' 'Evangelism Syndrome'

To the Editor:

President Ford, in asking Congress on Jan. 28 to appropriate \$522 million in additional aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia, said that "we cannot turn our back on these embattled countries." Unwillingness to provide adequate assistance to "allies fighting for their lives," he said, "would seriously affect our credibility. . . ."

This is the John Foster Dulles evangelism syndrome. In January of 1953, upon becoming Secretary of State, Dulles broadcast: "To all those suffering under Communist slavery, to the intimidated and weak peoples of the world, let us say this, you can count upon us." And so we fought the Korean war to an end in 1953 and now, nearly 22 years later, the repressive South Korean regime is found still counting on us (and particularly on the U.S. forces still garrisoned in that country).

We committed ourselves to the cause of Chiang Kai-shek against the Chinese Communists in 1945 and aided his side during the civil war that ended with the overthrow of the Nationalist regime, and in 1954 Dulles signed a treaty of alliance with the National Government in its refuge on Taiwan.

Now, two decades later, Washington feels that it cannot abrogate the treaty to enable us to establish normal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, for fear of damaging our "credibility." Generalissimo Chiang can count on us.

We fought our Vietnam war 1961 to 1973 for the benefit of the autocratic Saigon regime, at the cost of \$150-billion and many American and Indochinese lives—with shattering effects for the American economy and to the great detriment of American world prestige. We've supported Thieu's oppressive government unswervingly (and lavishly) since the Nixon Administration achieved that "peace with honor" in January 1973 and retired our troops from the battlefield.

Yet now, with the American economy depressed, with a looming budget deficit of tens of billions of dollars, and with vital international tasks facing us, the American nation is again being called upon to save the South Vietnamese regime from the natural consequences of its misrule.

Are there no limits to how much counterrevolutionary Asian regimes can count on us? "How long, O Lord, how long?"

O. EDMUND CLUBB  
New York, Jan. 30, 1975

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