

Agnew Calls Doubt Over Laos Sign of Wide U.S. 'Masochism'

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

WASHINGTON, April 7 — "Only the future will show for certain" what the South Vietnamese accomplished in Laos, the Vice President contended. He said the Nixon Administration believed that "the enemy has paid a heavy price and has been greatly weakened" but realized the need for restraint in judging the operation.

He said this was just one example of a growing American "masochism" that, unless checked, "will destroy us as a nation."

Not only the news media but leaders of government, universities, churches, commerce and the professions are part of "the movement to plead America guilty," Mr. Agnew said in a speech to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. A copy of his remarks was made available here.

The "most rabid critics" of the United States are citizens who emphasize the negative side of such topics as the war in Indochina, military surveillance of civilians, J. Edgar Hoover's leadership of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, supersonic transport development and the economy, the Vice President said.

"Pride in America"

"The fact that we have faults is no reason to flog ourselves before the world and despair of our condition," he said. "It is all the more reason to work to correct those faults and to improve on our weaknesses. It is certainly no reason to downgrade our country. Let's reinstill a little pride in America."

He said that Life magazine had done a "hatchet job" on the South Vietnamese campaign in Laos and that former Attorney General Ramsey Clark had come up with "the most masochistic suggestion that I have seen lately" in telling an audience at Yale University that the United States should unilaterally withdraw from South Vietnam and ask the forgiveness of the Vietnamese people.

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"In the main our news media have seemed obsessed with playing up our weaknesses, real or imagined, and ignoring those of the enemy," Mr. Agnew said. Broadening his criticism, he said:

"The leaders in the movement to plead America guilty because they can't muster the energy to defend her, to downgrade her among the other nations and to topple, or at least drastically alter, some of her most revered and respected institutions—all with the purest of intentions, I am sure—are to be found in positions of influence in all walks of life: the government, the university, the church, business and labor, the news media, the professions."

"Their genuine idealism and natural tolerance," he continued, "are exploited to the fullest by radicals who would like to tear America down."

Times Criticized

Mr. Agnew criticized a headline that appeared in The New York Times March 21 on a report that the Gallup Poll had found that the percentage of Americans who said they would like to move to another country had doubled since 1959.

The Vice President protested that the headline emphasized that 12 per cent wanted to emigrate instead of reflecting the desire of 88 per cent of those polled to remain. In eight other countries, Mr. Agnew said, the percentages of those wanting to leave were marked higher.

The Vice President said self-



United Press International

CALLS FOR MORE PRIDE IN AMERICA: Vice President Agnew during his speech in Los Angeles last night.

criticism was healthy but that it had become too negative.

"Masochism replaces pride," he said. "Guilt becomes the new intellectual standard, the badge of neosophistication." He offered the following other examples:

¶The military establishment's dedication to national security

is overlooked amid complaints about military surveillance of civilians ordered — "appropriately I think," Mr. Agnew said — by President Johnson during the 1967 urban riots.

¶Spending on space and technology such as the supersonic transport have been curtailed on the theory that funds will

be shifted to domestic needs. This is "illogical," he said, adding that the nation could do both jobs. "But I can tell you that pumping more money into programs that have been tried and have proved worthless in the ghettos of the big cities is not the way to national greatness or even to national happiness," Mr. Agnew said.

¶Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic national chairman, declared that hunger, joblessness and racism were being permitted to "run amok," and Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, is-

sued an unsigned letter purporting to be the complaint of 10 F.B.I. agents about Mr. Hoover. Mr. Agnew criticized both actions.

The nation's problems should be confronted without distorting the perspective in which they are viewed, the Vice President argued.

"I for one don't intend to stand idly by," his text said, "and watch the destruction—wittingly or unwittingly—of the institutions that have been built in the seat of the American free enterprise system over the last 300 years."