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Bao Dai Bids for Return To Vietnam as Arbiter

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TOKYO, Feb. 12—A voice out of Vietnam's past was heard here today as the exiled emperor, Bao Dai, made a bid to return to his homeland as a "national arbiter."

The former emperor, who arrived in Tokyo last week on a private visit from Paris, where he has been living since 1955, said in a statement to newsmen: "I know that many Vietnamese, a silent majority in fact, regard me as the symbol of Vietnamese unity, and traditions remain strong in South Vietnam."

"For this reason, it is my duty to do all I can to try and contribute to this unity in South Vietnam and, in the long run, to that of the country as a whole," Bao Dai said.

"Whatever may happen, I am determined to return to Vietnam, where I belong, as a simple Vietnamese citizen."

"But this return," he said, "when it occurs, must not be regarded as it would be right now, as a personal or partisan political act which would detract from my role as a national arbiter in the higher interests of peace and unity."