

Clifford Takes Hawkish Stand on Bombing Issue

WASHINGTON (AP)—Clark M. Clifford testified today he opposes any halt in the bombing of North Vietnam until leaders there demonstrate they will cease attacks and intervention in South Vietnam.

Clifford, the prospective new secretary of defense, expressed hope that North Vietnam forces soon will learn that they can't take over South Vietnam, and that this will bring peace.

HE SET FOR the nation a goal of being recognized as "too determined to be frightened and too strong to be defeated." He sees his own biggest challenge, he said, as "assuring the American people our military strength is such we can preserve our nation."

Saying he approves the way the war has been fought in Vietnam, he said U.S. and allied forces already have

"achieved a type of victory there."

He was responding to questions at a hearing on his nomination to succeed Robert S. McNamara in the defense post.

AFTER HEARING Clifford, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted unanimous approval of the selection. The Senate will be asked to con-

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firm his nomination next week.

He told the committee he plans to serve as long as President Lyndon B. Johnson desires. He said neither he nor the President had mentioned any specific period of time he was to serve.

In the course of his testimony, Clifford said U.S. military reserves could be called up as a result of Far Eastern developments. His statement came only a short time before the White House announced—and the Pentagon ordered—a call-up of 14,000 Air Force and Navy air reservists.

CLIFFORD SAID he saw little chance that U.S. forces could be withdrawn from South Vietnam in the near future.

Clifford said any withdrawal was conditioned upon assurance that South Vietnam attains self-determination without threats from outside or within that nation.

"If there were any doubt about South Vietnam's ability to defend itself," Clifford said, U.S. forces would remain.

Clifford outlined U.S. objectives previously listed for Vietnam, including self-determination.

HE SAID THIS country does not want to destroy North Vietnam or change its government.

But Clifford said patience and continued military pres-

sure should bring a time when North Vietnam should learn its attacks on South Vietnam "are not worth the candle and peace will come."

"Are you satisfied with the way the war is conducted now?" Sen. Jack Miller, R-Iowa, asked Clifford, adding that a yes-or-no answer would suffice.

"MY ANSWER IS yes," Clifford replied.

Clifford indicated he would not press for merger of the military reserve and National Guard forces—a plan which McNamara had pushed over opposition of many in Congress.

Under questioning by Committee Chairman Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., and other members Clifford also said:

—He would assure the Joint Chiefs of Staff they could present their views to congressional committees without reprisal if they disagreed with his own policies.

—He would work as closely as possible with Congress and would appreciate it if any member called to his attention any break in coordination and cooperation between his department and the legislative branch.

—He no longer favors, as he did when he served on a committee that recommended such a course, a unified military establishment without civilian heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

—He favors the retention and strengthening of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He does not intend to follow President Johnson's lead and resign from the Naval Reserve, in which he holds the rank of captain. Clifford said, "At my age, 61, it is perhaps nothing more than an honor."