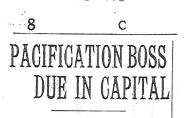
NYTimes

See NYTimes 3 Dec 70, this file

DEC 1 1 1970



Summoned in Controversy Over Anti-Vietcong Effort

## By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times Special to The New York Times WASHINGTON, Dec. 10— The head of the pacification program in South Vietnam has been summoned to confer here next week with Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird amid a controversy in the Adminis-tration over the effectiveness of the effort to suppress the Vietcong's underground organi-zation. zation.

of the effort to suppress the Vietcong's underground organi-zation. Defense Department officials declined to discuss the three-day visit by William E. Colby, the third-ranking American ci-vilian official in Saigon. Mr. Colby directs the vast organi-zation known as Civil Opera-tions and Rural Development Support, or CORDS. Operation Phoenix, the campaign to stamp out the Vietcong under-ground is run jointly by CORDS and the South Viet-namese police. Mr. Colby is expected to ar-rive Monday. The State De-partment has been informed of his visit, which was arranged by the Defense Department. Pacification is the joint Unit-ed States-Vietnamese program to establish security in the country's rural areas as well as foster economic development and self-government in villages free of Communist control. A confidential report pre-sented to the Administration by CORDS last month cast doubts on the success of pacification. It cited a recent survey show-ing that nearly 60 per cent of South Vietnamese interviewed in 242 hamlets believed their villages could still be penetrat-ed at night by Communist units. The question of security from the Vietcong bears on President Nixon's policy of Vietnamiza-tion, the effort to gradually re-place United States forces with the Saigon Government's troops A failure in pacification could affect the rate of American withdrawals.

A failure in pacification could affect the rate of American withdrawals.

11 Dec 70