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PACIFICATION BOSS DUE IN CAPITAL

Summoned in Controversy
Over Anti-Vietcong Effort

By TAD SZULC

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 Administration over the effectiveness of the effort to suppress the Vietcong's underground organization.

Defense Department officials declined to discuss the three-day visit by William E. Colby, the third-ranking American civilian official in Saigon. Mr. Colby directs the vast organization known as Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, or CORDS. Operation Phoenix, the campaign to stamp out the Vietcong underground is run jointly by CORDS and the South Vietnamese police.

Mr. Colby is expected to arrive Monday. The State Department has been informed of his visit, which was arranged by the Defense Department.

Pacification is the joint United 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 presented to the Administration by CORDS last month cast doubts on the success of pacification. It cited a recent survey showing that nearly 60 per cent of South Vietnamese interviewed in 242 hamlets believed their villages could still be penetrated at night by Communist units.

The question of security from the Vietcong bears on President Nixon's policy of Vietnamization, the effort to gradually replace United States forces with the Saigon Government's troops. A failure in pacification could affect the rate of American withdrawals.