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CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN HONGKONG

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ALLIED TROOPS WITHDRAWING PROBLEM

"The Allies may withdraw their troops gradually starting next year", President Nguyen Van Thieu of the Republic of Vietnam stated recently.

In an interview broadcast last week (April 24) with Mr Tom Mangold, BBC Special Correspondent, President Thieu explained the possibility of the Allies withdrawing part of their troops with the increase in strength of the RVN (Republic of Vietnam) Armed Forces and the coming general mobilization. With these measures, the RVN Armed Forces will assume greater responsibilities in the frontline as well as in the rear.

However, the President stressed, "In repeat, the Allied forces will only begin to withdraw gradually".

Asked whether or not he intends to let the so-called South Vietnam National Liberation Front participate in the government, President Thieu said that when those who have fought in the communist ranks reject communism and stop working for the communists to return to us with sincerity, we are ready to receive them as other honest citizens.

He added: "In this capacity they are entitled to participate in the national life".

To a question about the possibility of peace without any form of coalition government, President Thieu affirmed that peace will come immediately without a coalition with the communists if they truly have good will for peace.

Concerning the fighting capacity of Vietnam without the U. S. assistance, the President said: "We must be a little realistic. Today, South Vietnam is not only fighting against the North Vietnamese communists but also against the whole communist bloc in the world which has rendered sufficient help to North Vietnam".

He stressed that therefore South Vietnam also needs help from the free world. Maybe South Vietnam will gradually take care of herself in the strength problem. Regarding the financial, economic fields and weapons she needs the Allies' assistance while she is fighting.

Concerning the problem that to date the U. S. and North Vietnam have not agreed on the site for preliminary meeting, President Thieu made it known that Hanoi has been slow in giving its choice to one of the five places suggested by the U. S. And now the U. S. suggests 10 more places, if Hanoi does not choose any of them it is obvious that Hanoi lacks good will.

He also said that South Vietnam and her Allies have agreed not to let Hanoi exploit the bombing halt in North Vietnam for a long time to consolidate its aggressive potential.

According to him, the problem of when to halt the bombing and how long the bombing halt will be is decided by South Vietnam and her Allies. However, "generally speaking we can only accept a reasonable period of time".

SOUTH VIETNAM TO CONTINUE FIGHTING

President Nguyen Van Thieu of the Republic of Vietnam told a May Day rally that South Vietnam must depend upon its own resources to win the war.

"Even if the Allies leave us we will continue fighting", he told a crowd of about 5,000 workers, students and school children at a sports stadium in Danang.

After his speech, the President wandered through the crowd shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries.

The President told the crowd in his speech the South Vietnamese Government would not negotiate away any of Vietnam's territory in any peace talks and said it would hold no talk with the National Liberation Front (Vietcong).

"This is a dangerous time for the people. We must protect ourselves. Even if the Allies leave us, we must continue fighting", he added.

NO RIGHT TO JUDGE

Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky of the Republic of Vietnam said Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy have no right to make judgements about South Vietnam without coming here.

Speaking at a Labor Day rally at the Tao Dan Stadium, Saigon, the Vice President said: "We never accept certain individuals who have never come to this country, who can never sympathize with the problems of this country, who have never participated in the fight of the Vietnamese people, for political purpose and personal interests raise their voices to judge this country's struggle".

"They have no right to judge this country and the struggle of the Vietnamese and Allied soldiers", the Vice President added. "In doing so, they are betraying their own people and the ideals of humanity".