

No Victory In Sight For Either Side In Indochina War, Now In Sixth Year

By LARRY ALLEN

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — If you want to know when the second biggest war in Asia — that of the French Union forces against the Communist-led Vietminh in Indo-China — is going to end, consult your own crystal ball.

You'll get as accurate an answer there as anywhere.

There isn't even a glimmer of hope of victory for either the French or the Vietminh. The bitter struggle between the armies of Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh and French Union already has dragged on for six years and, barring intervention by Red China, could go on for many years to come.

That might be hard for the average American to understand. He knows the United States is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment and supplies into Indochina.

He knows the French have fighters, bombers, heavy artillery and everything they need to win a war. The Vietminh fight with machine-guns, grenades, rifles and pistols. Although supplied by the Chinese Communists, they don't have the modern equipment to wage a first class war.

Hit-and-Run War

Why don't the French launch a full-scale offensive and try to force a decision?

There's a good answer in a single sentence: There isn't any front in Indochina. This is a "hit and run" war.

The Vietminh attack French or Vietnamese military posts, villages or towns, when they think they have the defenders outnumbered and see a chance of quick, local victory they flee to the mountains the moment they know French reinforcements are arriving for a showdown battle.

This is a war of fast movement. There are no trenches. There's no front. So how can the French win the war when they can't corner enough of the Vietminh long enough to force a battle of decision?

On the other side of the picture, the Vietminh can't win, either. They lack the modern equipment to put on a big show. They studiously avoid committing any large number of forces against the French.

Tie Up Big French Force

The Vietminh might figure they're satisfied with things the way they are.

They're tying up 276,000 French troops which France badly needs to supplement her contribution to NATO in Europe. They're forcing the United States to send almost a billion dollars of war assistance to Indochina that might well be used elsewhere.

The Vietminh — territorially speaking — control most of Vietnam. Out of Vietnam's 23 million people, there are 13 million in Vietminh-held territory.

The big question in the war in Indochina — with neither side apparently capable of winning — is Communist China.

A massive Vietminh-Chinese Communist assault — with planes, armor and tens of thousands of troops — could make the situation

in Indochina untenable for the French in short order.

Ho Chi Minh has made no move in this direction. As for the French, it's strictly out of the question to even think of talking with Ho Chi Minh.

Every war must someday end — but there's no finish in sight for this one.

Cloud Dispersal System Enters War At Yakima

YAKIMA (AP) — A meteorologist engaged in the bitter Yakima Valley rain war between cherry and wheat growers claimed Monday he was using chemicals potent enough to "dry up a continent for a considerable length of time."

Jack Hubbard, of Olympia, said he would make a report of his findings to the American Meteorological Society at Corvallis, Ore., Tuesday.

Hubbard's statement, released Monday night, said, in brief: "Through several years of intensive research, we have developed a method of cloud dispersal which has been tested under severe weather conditions."

We believe that by enlarged and intensive operations it would be possible to dry up a nation or a continent for a considerable period of time. We believe that we are working with an ultimate weapon which has greater implications than anything the rain-inducers have yet developed."

Hubbard, who holds masters degrees in meteorology and physics, was hired by Yakima Valley cherry growers to break up rain cloud formations developed by rainmakers in the employ of Prosser and Horse Heaven wheat farmers.

Cherries Escape Damage

The cherry growers hired Hubbard after the wheat farmers employed rainmaker Dr. Irving Krick to bring rain to parched wheat fields. Cherry growers claim rain at this time of year, in the midst of the cherry harvest, would split and ruin their crops.

So far, there has been no damaging rain fall in the cherry orchard areas.

Hubbard said his operations were not designed to "hurt anyone, either grain or fruit growers, or to upset normal precipitation."

He said his operation was one of precision in which huge generators which bombard rain-carrying clouds with chemicals are quickly moved under rain cloud formations induced by cloud seeders. "Our specially-prepared chemicals act like sponges in drying up

DATED AT ELKS' DANCE



Bandleader Harry James, above, and his Music Makers will play at an Elks dance Friday evening at the Elks Temple.

Held for Elks and guests, the dance is slated to begin at 10 p.m. and will consist of three hours of dance music and a one hour floor show.

The Harry James group, currently on tour, will feature a number of vocalists and entertainers including Patti O'Connor, Tommy Gumina, Corey Cocoran and Gordon Polk.

Senators Urge Faster Build-Up Of Air Strength

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee called Tuesday for a faster build-up of U. S. air power and cited testimony by the joint chiefs of staff to support its stand.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex.), said everything must be done to step up rates of production in order to reach a goal of 143 wings as quickly as possible and overcome a "terrifying" Russian air superiority.

"To do otherwise would reduce our defenses below safe levels and be an invitation to disaster," the subcommittee said in a report dealing with the recent "stretch-out" decision by President Truman and his advisors.

A further memorandum from the joint chiefs said:

"The joint chiefs of staff desire to reaffirm that they consider the general period of 1954 to be the most dangerous for the security of the United States in the foreseeable future. Adoption of the reduced program... postpones our military capabilities to meet this threat."

clouds and dispersing them," Hubbard said.

"When it looks like the rainmakers have a cloud formation built up to a point where rain is likely, we get under it and dry it up."

He said only small amounts of the chemical was used in dispersing rain clouds because "large amounts can cover tremendous areas."

Sweden Enraged By Reds' Attack On Search Plane

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Infuriated Sweden kept up her search over the Baltic Tuesday for a missing transport plane and sent along jet fighter escorts with orders to shoot if the Russians attacked.

The traditionally neutral nation's stern action reflected the anger expressed by the government, press and people over the shooting down Monday of an unnamed Swedish flying boat by two Soviet MIG-15 jet fighter planes.

The seven crew members — two of them wounded — of the downed plane were picked up from the sea by a small German freighter and taken to Flango, Finland.

They had been searching for a Soviet DC-3 missing since Friday with eight men aboard. It was assumed here the Russians had shot down that craft, also.

Some 5,000 furious Swedes, jeering, shouting "we will see Stalin hanged," and "down with the Communist warmongers," demonstrated in front of the Russian embassy.

The government handed Russian Ambassador Constantine Rodinov a "strong protest" against this "act of violence" and demanded "swift punishment of those responsible for the outrage."



PLEASE, MR. PRESIDENT — Billy Hanson, 10, of Fort Worth, Texas, thinks hard as he composes a follow up letter to President Truman. Billy wrote the President asking him to "please don't make Alaska a state because Texas won't have anything to brag about then." Billy is a newly-promoted sixth grader. (AP Wirephoto)

Demos Lead Republicans In Balance Of Funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic Committee headed into the election-year home stretch with a slightly fatter pocketbook than did the Republican National Committee.

Reports filed with the clerk of the House showed the Democrats with a balance of \$267,391 on June 1 and the Republicans with \$228,790.

Only a few generations ago, many English words were spelled in several different ways by reputable writers.

REVEILLE RESPIRE

BAXTER, Tenn. (AP) — Baxter's bugling bachelor, Charlie Hughes, has decided that after 28 years of daily reveille the residents of this small mid-Tennessee community need a little early-morning sleep.

Hughes is off on a two-week vacation—his first in 28 years.

In 1924 Hughes decided that bugle blowing would be healthful exercise. Ever since he has been blowing reveille from atop a pole in his back yard sharply at 5 a.m. daily.

A giraffe can run at the rate of more than 30 miles an hour.

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