

Stifling of Communist Inroads In Viet Nam Claimed Necessary Prior To Summer, 1956, Voting

By GENE D. SYMONDS
United Press Correspondent

Saigon—(U.P.)—Underground Communist organizations already control about 50 per cent of Viet Nam. The question is, can American, French and Free Viet Nam leaders stifle those inroads before the all-Viet Nam elections in the summer of 1956.

Most informed American officials here admit if the elections were held today, the Communists would win.

They admit, too, it is a long shot proposition whether the West can ever save Viet Nam from Communist grasp.

"Whether we like it or not we've got our money on this long shot," a U.S. military officer told me "And if we lose here I honestly believe we've lost Asia."

It is possible in this refugee-crowded capital to find every degree of outlook from abject pessimism to soaring optimism.

French Morale Low

The French, low in morale and exhausted after eight years of war, are generally pessimistic.

Viet Namese officials are optimistic. Their nationalistic emotions were buoyed up by the cutting of ties with the French. They have a fighting determination to win back the northern half of their country.

Unfortunately, however, Saigon is rife with indecision, intrigue, confusion, bitterness and feuds. Progress is made in some fields while ground is lost in others.

Behind this confusion is the fact that Communist underground organizations control

about half the population. The West's problem is to win the support of these people before the 1956 elections.

A big bottleneck to accomplishing this appears to be the lack of an overall American plan of action. There is hope this will be rectified when Gen. J. Lawton Collins, President Eisenhower's special envoy, returns to Washington to report next month.

Much Bitterness Felt

There is much bitterness among Viet Namese government and military leaders as a result of indications the United States does not intend to commit itself too deeply here, but instead plans to rely on retaliatory provisions of the SEATO pact if violence threatens South Viet Nam.

Collins himself has been extremely quiet about his findings.

But members of his staff and American embassy officials, along with Viet Namese and French leaders who have talked with him, indicate his broad policy recommendations will include:

1. Throw the full support of the United States behind the still weak government of Ngo Dinh Diem, president of the council of ministers. He needs such support if he is to break down the influence of various religious and military groups plotting against him.

2. Completely reorganize the army under American training methods and indoctrinate its men with the idea they are to serve the people, not exploit them.

3. A large-scale military and economic aid program. Collins may recommend that \$300,000,000 be appropriated for 1955.



FAILED—Senator Clifford P. Case of New Jersey talks with reporters in Washington after he tried and failed to persuade fellow Republicans to bump Senator Joseph McCarthy of the Senate government operations committee.

Downward Trend Noted in Accidental and Violent Deaths in County During 1954

A "significant downward trend," in both 1953 and 1954, of accidental and violent deaths in Jackson county is shown by statistics released by the county health department, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

Total for such deaths in 1954 was 43, and a decrease of 12.2 from 1953. The decrease in 1953 from the previous year was 21 per cent.

The doctor said that this trend "reflects the fine educational work being done in this county by our safety and accident prevention groups."

Death Rate Down

General decreases in other groups were noted by Dr. Merkel. Deaths last year totaled 560, down by 23 from 1953. This made the 1954 death rate 8.7 per 1,000 population.

Births in the county for the same period were 1,348, down by 51. Males again outnumbered the females with 679, or 10 more than the other sex. The births occurred mainly in hospitals, with 13 born at home and two en route to hospitals. A total of 1,142 were born in the Medford registration district and 206 in Ashland.

Infant Deaths Down

The physician stated that the infant death rate has "unbelievably decreased"—13.4 per 1,000 live births during 1954, as against 22.1 during 1953." He

added that this "puts us far below the Oregon rate of 23.5 for 1953. This decrease has been so noteworthy that I wish especially to commend every practicing physician and the hospitals in this county, who deserve a large share of the credit for making this wonderful record possible."

Last year there were no maternal deaths, and only one maternal death in five years. During this time, there were 6,879 live births. Dr. Merkel stated that the maternal death rate for the past five years is .15 per 1,000 live births, which is the lowest five-year period ever experienced by Jackson county, and, no doubt, compares favorably with the lowest such rate in the nation.

Excellent Health Year

He emphasized that 1954 has been an excellent year for the county "health-wise." The communicable disease occurrences have been below average as far as the major problems have been concerned, with the exception of infectious hepatitis. He added that even this disease had not developed as large as expected.

Causes of death for the year were: 318 heart and circulation; 84 cancer and tumor; 43 accident and violence; 32 respiratory system; 18 diseases of genito-urinary system; 14 early infancy; 12 diseases of digestive system; 6 diseases of nervous system; 4 diseases of nutrition

and endocrine system; 3 tuberculosis; 3 tumor of the brain; 3 diseases of the bone; 3 from unknown causes; 2 diabetes; 1 disease of the blood; 1 infectious hepatitis; 1 disease of the skin; 1 meningitis and 1 alcohol poisoning. There were no polio deaths.

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SHOE SALE
 STILL IN PROGRESS
 — Plenty of —
GOOD SELECTIONS
At Tremendous Savings

Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(U.P.)—A motherly-looking housewife who thinks television viewers should voice their opinions on programs is the center today of a hot controversy in the TV industry.



Aline Mosby

Five years ago, Mrs. Clara Logan, a dentist's wife, started a small Parent-Teachers association committee of TV reviewers.

That group has blossomed into the National Association for Better Radio and Television. It has an impressive list of directors, and many prominent citizens and clubs around the nation are members.

However, some television workers, including Jack Webb and Roy Rogers, have frowned upon the group. Some TV newspaper columnists have blasted NAFBRAT as "dangerous" and "censors."

Criticism Ridiculous
Mrs. Logan, a slender, attractive matron, thinks cries of "censorship" and "pressure groups" are "perfectly ridiculous."

"Our aim is to speak up about objectionable programs," she declared. "We also want to encourage fine programs. There should be much more active interest on the part of listeners." NAFBRAT's evaluation of

programs is made by a committee of 12 Los Angeles women, mostly housewives. Their last report was a bombshell. They condemned most westerns on TV as harmful to children, bringing moans from Rogers, Bill Williams and other video sagebrush heroes.

One prominent psychiatrist I queried said he thought westerns provided an "emotional outlet" for children's usual hostilities and frustrations and were not harmful.

Mrs. Logan replied, "But westerns are in essence crime programs. The plot starts out with a crime." And she produced statements from many psychiatrists and psychologists that crime programs are harmful to children.

Suggested Standards
How does the committee decide what is "good" or "bad"? The group has published a list of "suggested standards for program evaluation" that says a show is desirable if it "upholds acceptable standards of behavior, promotes democratic and spiritual values, is wholesome, adventure or humor," etc.

Mrs. Logan thinks her group should be allowed to protest programs just as any newspaper critic does. However, after NAFBRAT decided the "Captain Midnight" program was not according to NAFBRAT standards, the evaluation committee wrote to the sponsor. He dropped the show.

What seems "good" to this year's evaluators might seem "bad" to next year's, Mrs. Logan admitted, but "we are careful whom we appoint to the board of directors."
The group next will tackle adult programs. First under fire will be soap operas and news programs.

"We do not represent any political party," Mrs. Logan added. "We think stations should present both sides of any subject."

Elks Lodge Officers Attend State Session

Three officers of the Medford Elks lodge left today for The Dalles to attend a mid-winter session of the Oregon State Elks association which will be held there Friday and Saturday.

Those from here are Frank T. Hunsong, exalted ruler; Dick Woodcock, leading knight, and the secretary, Ernest Scott.

Scott will continue on to Portland where Sunday he will attend a meeting of the directors of the Oregon Non-Profit clubs. On Monday he will attend legislative sessions at Salem.

At the mid-winter session William Jernick of New Jersey, grand exalted ruler of the Elks lodge, will be the main speaker.

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Doris Ellen Carter, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Carl Valentine Grossman, failure to remain stopped at red light, \$5.
Thad Warren Hinkle, violation of basic rule, \$10.

DISTRICT COURT
Samuel A. Hursh, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Claudette L. McKinney, violation of basic rule, \$15.
William M. Cranston, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.
Dale E. Beach, defective muffler, \$15.
James J. Henry, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Marion E. Chartier, failure to use hand signal, \$5.
Dick Meister, dumping debris on public property, \$25.
Bob C. Reynolds, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Forrest A. Thompson, no PUC permit, \$15.
Roy McLaughlin, overload, \$121.
Virgil L. Brown, overload, \$110.
Vernon R. Oden, no operator's license, \$10.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Edward L. Stewart, 21, of 500 Union st., and Hildean White, 19, Craiton, Ky.
James Francis Fry, 45, L.B. Star route, Eagle Point, and Hesta Hardy Willis, 36, Eagle Point.

Subscribers

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If regular delivery arrives shortly after you call please notify office thus eliminating special messenger service.

Personnel Changes Listed by Hotel

Al G. Barnes has arrived here from San Luis Obispo, Calif., to assume duties as night manager and auditor of the Jackson hotel, Mrs. Betti-Boyle, manager, announced today.

Barnes was with the Anderson hotel in Portland. He has been a member of the Hotel Greeters of America since 1917.

Mrs. Wilma Hart, who has been employed at the Jackson for several years, has been promoted to assistant manager. Her former position is being filled by Mrs. Edna Pyle. Mrs. Pyle is a former Medford resident who returned in December to the valley to live from Des Moines, Ia., where she was employed at the Mayfair hotel for 12 years as a desk clerk and assistant manager.

Another promotion at the hotel is that of Kenneth Meyers to manager of the lounge. Charles (Chuck) Capps is now employed as night bartender and Mary Mays also is employed at the lounge. Mrs. Leona Burk, who has worked in the coffee shop for some time, now is head waitress.

WASTED EFFORT

Sidney, Neb.—(U.P.)—George McDonald, 32, Sidney, Neb., wishes he hadn't bothered to have his 1950 car overhauled. Shortly after he drove out of the garage in the rejuvenated vehicle, it stalled on the Union Pacific's mainline tracks. He got out and stood by helplessly as a freight train demolished the car.

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Jacksonville Museum Changes Open Hours

The 1 to 5 p.m. winter visiting hours at the Jacksonville Museum, adopted Nov. 1 as an economy measure, have been changed to 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The change was ordered by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Inc., administrative agency for the museum, because so many people go to Jacksonville with the intention of visiting the pioneer display during the noon hour.

At a meeting of the society Tuesday night the curator, Mrs. Myrtle P. Lee, explained that keeping the museum open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. would also better accommodate the many groups of school children who come to Jacksonville from throughout southern Oregon and must return home in the afternoon.

In her report on attendance the curator told the society that 863 persons registered at the museum during December, and that 171,815 visitors have now passed through the institution's doors.

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