

Indochina Situation Steadily Gets Worse As Ho Enters Scene

By CHARLES M. McCANN
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Things seem to be getting steadily worse in Indochina.

Rebels in Southern Viet Nam, most important of the three Indochina states, are fighting a small scale civil war against Premier Ngo Dinh Diem.

Diem's political enemies are reported also to be plotting against him from within his own governmental organization.

And now, as if things were not bad enough already, Ho Chi Minh, leader of Communist Northern Viet Nam, is interesting himself actively in the situation.

A dispatch from Saigon, the Southern Viet Nam capital, reported a week ago that Ho's radio had started appealing to the anti-Diem rebels "to unite with their brothers of the North."

It is known that Communist agents are increasingly active in the country areas of Southern Viet Nam. They are telling the people that Ho is sure to take over the country sooner or later, and that it would be smart to get on his side in advance.

Change of Mind
There was another development during the week end which showed how chaotic the Southern Viet Nam situation is. Hundreds of people who had fled from the North to escape Communist rule held a demonstration in Saigon — demanding that they be sent home again.

Most likely there were some undercover Communist agents among the demonstrators. Unfortunately, it has been indicated for some time that some of the 800,000 people who fled the North when Viet Nam was split into northern and southern parts under the Geneva armistice now want to go back home. Unless the present trend is stopped there is ever reason to believe that more of the refugees will want to go back to the North.

There is every reason also for Ho to look forward with some optimism to the elections which are to be held next year to unify Southern and Northern Viet Nam.

More Bad News
It is not only in Southern Viet Nam that the situation is bad. A Saigon dispatch reports that 10,000 Communist guerrillas are harassing government troops in the state of Laos. These Reds were part of Ho's army before the Geneva armistice, under which Viet Nam was split into northern and southern parts.

It is reported further that some of the anti-Diem rebels have set up a headquarters in Cambodia, third of the Indochina states, and thus threaten to involve that area in the civil war.

Premier Diem, whom the United States supports, is putting up a good fight against the rebels and against plotters in his own government. But he has made himself unpopular, by his

stubbornness, with many people who ought to be supporting him. It looks as if the Indochina situation will soon cause a lot more worry to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. There have been several attacks against Americans in Saigon within the last week.

Also, a clandestine rebel radio has warned Americans to keep neutral in the civil war or be prepared to suffer retaliation.

McCarthy Assured Of Prompt Action On Big Four Plan

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy was assured that his resolution regarding the Big Four conference will get prompt consideration from the Senate Foreign Relations committee, perhaps today.

The assurance was given by Senate Democratic leader Lyndon B. Johnson after he and the Wisconsin Republican tangled on the issue on the Senate floor yesterday. Johnson finally blocked an attempt by McCarthy to bypass the committee.

Asks Assurances
The wrangle developed over McCarthy's resolution asking the administration to get assurances from the Big Four foreign ministers that Soviet satellite nations will be discussed at the forthcoming Big Four meeting.

McCarthy asked permission to introduce his resolution out of order. Challenged by Johnson, McCarthy conceded that he had planned to offer another unanimous consent request that the resolution be considered without going to the committee.

McCarthy finally agreed to have his resolution sent to the Foreign Relations committee after Johnson said both he and Republican leader William F. Knowland would urge the committee to consider it today or tomorrow.

Cannot Pledge Support
Johnson earlier had warned McCarthy that he could not promise that the Foreign Relations committee would act favorably on the resolution.

McCarthy said "time is of the essence" since the assurances he wants the administration to get from French, British and Russian foreign ministers should be sought in San Francisco this week. He said another resolution he introduced has been pending in the committee three months.

Johnson urged McCarthy to employ the regular committee route. He said some members of the committee "might" support the resolution.

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