

Vietnamese Brace for Reduction in U.S. Aid



By RAY HERNDON
SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI)—The Vietnamese government is bracing itself for a drastic reduction in American economic aid, more than half of which has been suspended since the end of August.

Reliable sources now say that Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his powerful brother and political counselor Ngo Dinh Nhu are convinced that the United States will continue to withhold most of its economic aid or will sharply reduce the amount should aid be resumed.

At the same time, it is reliably reported that the government has appointed two of its Army generals to make a study of the problems which would be encountered should the United States also suspend its military aid.

To Study Impact
Reliable sources said the two generals have been named to head a committee which will make a study of the impact of the Vietnamese military of suspended American military aid.

Although the United States has not formally announced suspension of its aid to Viet Nam, the economic aid mission here has effectively halted its commercial import program which indirectly provides more than 70 per cent of South Viet Nam's military budget.

Faced with the possibility that the American commercial import program may not be resumed, qualified sources say that the Vietnamese government leaders are considering various economic steps which would allow them to "go it alone" should that become necessary.

Steps Considered
Among the steps that Diem and Nhu are considering but have not yet acted upon are:

—Raise taxes on certain basic commodities such as gasoline as well as luxury taxes on theater admissions, etc.

—Ration the sales of imported commodities, especially items Viet Nam imports with its own foreign currency reserves.

—Reduce the allowance of Vietnamese civil servants who draw extra monthly allotments depending on their position and the number of children they have.

Each of these plans is designed directly or indirectly to reduce expenditures of the Vietnamese government and preserve Viet Nam's precious foreign currency reserves.

Financial circles say that the first such economy move will be the raising by more than 200 per cent the taxes on petroleum imports and consequently the price of imported gasoline would double.

Business sources said the government already has notified the major oil companies operating in Viet Nam that the retail price of gasoline will be changed from approximately 40 U.S. cents per gallon to 80 U.S. cents.

Shows Displeasure
It is generally believed here that the United States has suspended the major portion of its economic aid to Viet Nam as a means of showing its displeasure over the Vietnamese government's handling of the Buddhist crisis.

In late August, the Vietnamese government broke its solemn promise to the United States that it would follow a conciliatory course of action in dealing with the Buddhist question.

Vietnamese government troops on Aug. 21 stormed Buddhist pagodas throughout Viet Nam, arresting thousands of Buddhist priests and laymen who led the nearly four-month politico-religious protest movement which threatened to topple the regime of President Diem. American Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is reliably reported to view the political situation

in this country as "very serious." Lodge also is known to have grave doubts whether the Ngo family government can muster sufficient popular support to win this largely political war against the Communist Viet Cong.

Halloween Events Include Painting Contest, Dance

As in previous years, the Medford Moose Lodge and the City of Medford Recreation Department in cooperation with Medford public schools are planning Halloween festivities.

Oct. 31 has again been designated as Youth Honor Day with participating youth requested to sign a pledge card, which states that the signer will not perform any act harmful to others during the Halloween season.

Events planned include a window painting contest, a Halloween costume parade and a dance for teen-agers.

The parade will be Saturday, Oct. 26, at 10 a.m.

Registration Open

Registration for the window painting contest is open in the recreation office on the second floor of Medford City Hall, Fifth St. and Central Ave. Registration today and Friday will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Painting must be completed by 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 28, so judging can begin.

Students wishing to participate in the window painting contest must not be older than 14 years, must sign a pledge card and be registered for the contest. Either water color or poster paint must be used for painting and entrants are to take the paint with them to the City Hall when they register so it may be approved for use. Each participant will be assigned a space on a window of Medford store. The subject should follow the Halloween or autumn theme.

A number of prizes will be awarded in two age groups, 11 and under and 12 through 14.

the increase of shipping rates on the government owned railway system. According to an economy department order published recently the shipping rates rose by 12.59 per cent earlier this month.

Meanwhile, the unrest in financial circles brought about by the temporary suspension of American aid has caused the black market rate of the Vietnamese Piastre (currency unit) to shoot up in the past few days to an all time high of 140 piastres per United States dollar.

The official rate for the piastre is 73 per U.S. dollar, but there has always been a steady demand and market for the piastre which fluctuated between 80 and 90 per dollar.

Another government move to boost its internal revenues was

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

THERE'S BEEN a lot of grumbling about the time it takes these days for a game of big-league baseball to be played, what with pitchers posing as statues for minutes at a time, adjusting their caps, pants, belts, socks, and what have you, and managers calling conferences at every turn of a television camera. The president of one of the leagues sent a secret memo to valued officials asking for suggestions as to how play might be speeded up. The likeliest suggestion came from one cynic on the Journal: "Play only eight innings instead of nine."



A jet was about to take off for Seattle from Idlewild when a man rushed up to the gate attendant and demanded, "Will there be time for me to get on that jet and kiss my wife goodbye?" The attendant answered gravely, "That depends, sir, on how long you've been married."

Let us give a thought to the farmer in North Dakota who told cronies around the cracker barrel, "I'm agitated. Two months ago my wife had quadruplets. Today she tells me we have triplets. 'You're out of your mind,' scoffed Old Man Boles. 'Can't have triplets two months after you've had quadruplets.' 'Can too,' said the worried father. 'One of the quadruplets got lost.'"

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Japan Schedules Election Nov. 21

Tokyo (UPI)—Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda has dissolved parliament and called new elections for Nov. 21.

Ikeda, whose Liberal Democrats won 296 of the 467 lower house seats in the last elections three years ago, will stress in the campaign that Japan will remain a firm ally of the United States.

He will also seek voter approval of his economic plan, which foresees doubling of Japan's income in the next 10 years and a consequent rise in the standard of living.

Ikeda took office in the wake of anti-American rioting that forced then President Eisenhower to cancel his visit here. He replaced Nobusuke Kishi, also a Liberal Democrat, who resigned after pushing through the controversial U.S.-Japan military security pact, which set off the riots.

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