AMERICA WAKE UP, Broadcast No. 44

COALITION FOR VIET NAM?

ANNOUNCER: AMERICA WAKE UP, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, State of Illinois, presents Phyllis Schlafly.

MRS. SCHLAFLY: The Communists in South Viet Nam are proposing that tried-and-true prelude to takeover -- coalition government. The March 3 issue of THE WORKER, the East Coast organ of the U.S. Communist Party, itemized the Communist line in South Viet Nam as follows: "1) End U.S. intervention, withdrawal of U.S. war materials and personnel. 2) An internal cease-fire and dismantlement of the terror apparatus in the concentration camps. 3) A national coalition government representing all political parties regardless of tendency, or social classes, religions and nationalities -- the government to organize free general election of a national assembly. 4) South Viet Nam to adopt a foreign policy of peace and neutrality, internationally guaranteed, as in Laos and Cambodia."

This typical Red line of "coalition" is reiterated by the Communists because they know that history proves the success of this tactic in advancing Communist objectives from Czechoslovakia to Laos. For example, the May 29 issue of NEW TIMES, a weekly Communist journal from Moscow, states: "We (Vietnamese Communists) must always be ready to negotiate. We are prepared, provided U.S. troops are immediately withdrawn, to accept a broad national coalition government which would pursue a neutral policy. We think a coalition government could be formed based on all those forces, including even Diemist supporters, which are for independence, neutrality and an end to foreign intervention."

Any discussion about South Viet Nam is inescapably tied in with the Buddhist situation, which has occupied so many headlines during

the past several months. The Communist press is playing its traditional role of inflaming the "class war" and spreading false propaganda in order to influence important information channels in the United States. Many leaders in the United States deny that the Reds could be behind Buddhist agitation in South Viet Nam, but knowledge of their timing and their use of "reforms" points to the possibility. What more convenient device could the Communists design to cause internal conflict while South Viet Nam fights a life-and-death jungle struggle against the Communist Viet Cong? The "line" both Communists and Buddhists have in common is seen in the May 29 NEW TIMES: "Dictator Ngo Dinh Diem must go."

The June 19 edition of the Communist journal called NEW TIMES gave the Red line on the so-called "religious persecution" and said: "Ngo Dinh Diem and his entourage belong to the Catholic circles. The Diem government has for a long time been discriminating against believers of all other faiths." This fiction of "religious persecution" has been spread by editorials and ads in the NEW YORK TIMES, the WASHINGTON POST, and other publications. Let us examine the facts. Frederick E. Nolting, recent U.S. Ambassador to Viet Nam, stated categorically: "In the time I have been here -- in visits to all parts of the country during nearly two and a half years -- I have never seen any evidence of religious persecution or bigotry on the part of any religious group."

Another persuasive answer was given in an open letter dated July 19 and written by Harold F. Erickson which made a point-by-point refutation of the many errors in the NEW YORK TIMES advertisement. This letter was reviewed in detail by Admiral Felix Stump, former Pacific Commander-in-Chief, who recently returned from South Viet Nam, and by Lieutenant General Samuel T. Williams, former Chief of the U.S.

Military Assistance Advisory Group in Viet Nam, who both attest to its accuracy. This letter said in part:

"... There has, in fact, been no suppression of Buddhist services or observances, private or public. It is also interesting to note that one-fourth of all the existing Buddhist pagodas in Viet Nam have been built since the Diem government came to power; another fourth have been rehabilitated during this time; and the Diem government has granted $125,000 US for these projects. President (Diem) himself donated $8,300 US toward construction of the Xa Loi Pagoda in Saigon (the very pagoda to which the charred body of the Venerable Thich Quang Duc was taken). This is indeed a strange way to 'deny religious freedom.' ... The majority of high government officials, including the Vice President and Secretary of State, are Buddhists, not Catholics; of the 19 generals in the Vietnamese Army, only three are Catholics."

Another Communist lie was launched in the April 28 issue of the NEW TIMES, the journal from Moscow, which said: "Peasants are herded behind high bamboo fences and barbed wire and put under armed guard. In the first year of this programme, 8,000,000 people have been herded into such concentration camps." A full-page ad in the NEW YORK TIMES subsequently echoed this Red propaganda about "concentration camps." The open letter written by Harold F. Erickson, and reviewed by Admiral Stump and others, also answered this charge and said: The propaganda about "'concentration camps' is absurd. The strategic hamlet program is a truly inspiring patriotic effort on the part of all who are involved in their construction, and they may well be the deciding factor in this very real war against Communism. For the first time, the people of rural Viet Nam have some security against the Viet Cong terrorists who, before the strategic hamlets came into being,

roamed the countryside at will, living off the defenseless farmers. The hamlets deny the (Communist) Viet Cong access to one of its primary sources of food supply. Apparently, it must be pointed out that the strategic hamlets are built and fortified by the people who live in them; no one is forced to move into these villages; and the inhabitants are free to come and go as they please. Typically, the farmers who live in the hamlets tend their fields or rice paddies outside the hamlets in the daytime, and retire at night to the hamlets, with their harvested crops, for security. Other benefits accrue: Because of the community life to which some of these agrarian people have, for the first time, been exposed, a real grassroots democracy is being formed. The residents of the hamlets are electing their own officials and making their own laws."

Like anywhere in the world, all is not perfect in South Viet nam. But Americans should realize that President Diem is engaged in a three-dimensional war against Communism. Communist efforts to destroy the Diem government are not confined to the guerrilla warfare, which keep South Viet Nam in a constant state of wartime emergency. In addition, the Communist attack includes a systematic exploitation of Viet Nam's underdeveloped economy and the support of short-sighted and self-serving groups who seek to create political disunity during a time of national emergency.

South Viet Nam President Diem has brought order out of the chaos that existed when he took over. Of the 6 million who voted in a national referendum in 1955, 98 per cent favored Diem as head of state. Diem has worked continuously to broaden the base of democracy in his country. The National Assembly approved a new Constitution and is carrying out its legislative responsibilities. New roads were built, new schools established, virgin lands opened through a far-sighted land reform program, and a Vietnamese Army organized and equipped under

the U.S. Military Assistance Program. By the fall of 1958, Diem's country was "on the move", and its economy was beginning to bloom and flourish.

The Communists determined to destroy the Diem government for the same reason that they later built the Berlin wall: the contrast between the drab Communist state of North Viet Nam and the political and economic flowering of South Viet Nam was becoming more glaringly apparent with each succeeding month. The Communists decided to launch an all-out campaign of subversion, terrorism, guerrilla warfare and propaganda to destroy the Diem government. Diem has been subjected to the same massive Communist campaign of character assassination which has handicapped other strong anti-Communist Asian leaders such as Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee. If the Reds succeed in their present objective of establishing a coalition government in South Viet Nam, it will not be long before that country follows the pattern of Czechoslovakia, China, Cuba and Laos, and 14 million more people will be locked behind the Iron Curtain.

The American Security Council, which has recently completed a thorough study of the situation in South Viet Nam, concluded its report with this note of warning to all American citizens: "Anyone who has been active in defending freedom against Communism has, at some time, been asked, (by someone who hasn't done his homework) 'Why do you worry about the Communist Party in the United States? Isn't it so small and insignificant as to be entirely ineffective?' If you reply by suggesting that the Communist Party has influence far beyond its admittedly small numerical strength, the questioner usually smiles condescendingly, as if addressing a slightly retarded third grader. Yet, the June 27 (NEW YORK) TIMES ad (about Viet Nam) is but one more example of how the Communist Party line is transmitted, not directly but almost intact, from the party itself to a group of responsible and

respected individuals, all of whom abhor Communism and each of whom would insist that he is intellectually incapable of being taken in by any sort of propaganda. The task of the Communist conspiracy is simplified when we can be persuaded to accept propaganda as fact. We have seen the formula applied to Chiang Kai-shek in China and Prince Boun Oum in Laos.

In May 1961 when the United States faced the Laos problem, Diem warned of the consequences of U.S. State Department policy, and said: "A Munich-type agreement in Laos will have consequences of incalculable gravity -- not only for Viet Nam, but for all the other nations of Southeast Asia." Events were to prove Diem right. Laos today is under effective Communist control, and Southeast Asia is ready to fall like a deck of cards. More than a year ago, when the United States put further pressure on our friends in Laos to do what they knew would cause the communization of their country, Marshall Sarit of Thailand delivered a solemn warning to the United States ambassador: "You will reap the whirlwind of what you are now sowing." We are now reaping that Asian whirlwind.

The rapid deterioration in South Viet Nam threatens to result in a major victory for international Communism because Americans again have been deceived by clever Communist propaganda.

ANNOUNCER: The Daughters of the American Revolution have many programs and activities specifically designed to promote good citizenship among the youth of America. The DAR awards a Good Citizens Pin to the outstanding senior girl in each high school in the United States. From the winners in each state, a State Good Citizen is chosen and presented with a $100 Savings Bond. In addition, the DAR National Defense Committee present annually nearly 10,000 Good Citizenship Medals to boys and girls in elementary, junior and senior high schools

who distinguish themselves by the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Another DAR program is the sponsorship of Junior American Citizens Clubs in order to promote Americanism and Good Citizenship among elementary age children. There are now 8,569 of these JAC clubs with a total membership of more than 338,000, scattered among public schools, settlement houses, orphanages and community centers. Membership in these Junior American Citizens clubs is free and open to all boys and girls regardless of race or creed.

Listen in again next week at this same time for another in the series of programs called AMERICA WAKE UP.

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