

Vietnam Crisis

Reds Reverse Ancient Advice

By FRED J. ECKERT

There is a crisis in South Vietnam, a crisis as real, as dangerous, and as important as the crisis in Berlin.

Thus far, the crisis in Berlin has been little more than an exchange of threatening words; the crisis in South Vietnam is already one of military action—bullets, not words, are being exchanged there.

Around the year 500 B.C., the ancient Chinese strategist, Sun Tzu, wrote in "The Art of War," one of the world's oldest military treatises, "Make a noise in the east, but strike in the west." Today, over two thousand four hundred years since Sun Tzu wrote "The Art of War," the Communists are skillfully applying his ancient strategy to the present world struggle. They have merely reversed the directions; they're making their noise in the West, and striking in the East.

As more and more world attention is centering on the area where the Communists are making their noise—Berlin, less and less notice is being given to the area where they are actually striking—South Vietnam.

In his special address to the nation on the Berlin crisis, President Kennedy warned that Berlin is not our only danger area. In the words of the President: "The threat is world-wide. Our efforts must be equally wide and strong, and not be obsessed by a single manufactured crisis. We face a challenge in Berlin, but that is also, for example, a challenge in Southeast Asia, where the borders are less guarded, the enemy harder to find, and the danger of Communism often less apparent to the local population."

Country at Stake

South Vietnam is a small and poor nation. It comprises about half of the former country of Vietnam; the Geneva cease-fire agreement of 1954, which ended the French-Indochina War, divided the northern half of the country to the Communists.

This tiny republic is led by Ngo Dinh Diem, its president. Diem, a devout Catholic, is an ardent nationalist and staunch anti-Communist. He struggled against the French to secure independence for his country. He has fought the Communists to preserve that independence.

The loss of South Vietnam's manpower and natural resources to the Communists would not, in itself, effectuate a significant change in the present balance of power between the free world and the Communist world. The country is vital, not because of man, power or riches, but because of geography. Communist control

of this strategically located country would afford them a precious stepping stone to the rest of Southeast Asia and to the riches of Indonesia. For the Communists, South Vietnam is the key that could unlock all of Southeast Asia to them.

Type of Conflict

The Communists have not proclaimed a crisis in South Vietnam; they have not issued ultimatums, they have not called for a summit conference. They have, however, set-up, supplied, and sent into action thousands of guerrilla fighters.

The Communists have not launched a massive assault against South Vietnam. Such an openly aggressive act would bring American might into action in Southeast Asia, and this is something that the Communists do not want. Instead of launching a direct massive attack, as they did in Korea, the Communists are employing the same tactics that they so successfully used in Laos.

Communist guerrilla strength has doubled in the past year; they have infected half of the nation's villages and outright control some of them. Guerrilla strength in the provinces west and south of the capital city of Saigon is so strong that South Vietnam's Army does not allow small units to venture out at night for fear of their being overpowered by guerrilla forces.

The American Embassy has forbidden our officials to travel away from the big cities by any means except air.

President Diem says that the Communists "are not making war in the traditional ways. Instead of launching a massive attack, they are 'quietly nibbling away.'"

In this type of conflict, the transition from peace to war, and from a non-Communist state to a Communist state is surrounded with grey—things are not black-and-white—no one act seems to justify war. Therefore, we do not act. However, each step the Communists take brings them closer to their objectives.

By the time that their actions, taken as a whole, banish the grey and present us with a stark black-and-white situation, control of the country at stake has already shifted to the Communists. A conference is then called. Later, the conference is forgotten, the country becomes Communist, and nothing is done about it. This happened in Laos; it could happen in South Vietnam.

Communist Objectives

Long beset by crowded conditions, famine, and industrial backwardness, China has imperialistic

mission to rectify the grave problems plaguing her.

To alleviate her crowded conditions, China needs the land of Southeast Asia. To thwart famine, China needs the rice of the Mekong and Mae Nam river valleys. To stimulate her industrial power, China needs the tin, lumber, rubber, and oil of Indonesia.

The main Communist objective, often repeated but never actually fully stressed or grasped, is world domination. Conquest of South Vietnam would not satiate the Communists' appetite; it would, in fact, intensify it.

For the Communists, South Vietnam is more than merely another prize to add to their growing collection; it is the key to Southeast Asia, which is a stepping stone to the rest of Asia, which in turn is a stepping stone to places beyond. All the stepping stones, though they sometimes seem insignificant in themselves, lead to the fulfillment of Communism's goal of world domination.

Worth Risking War?

South Vietnam, like Berlin, is more than a mere spot on the map; it is a testing ground, testing which system, Communism or Democracy, will prevail.

It is said that Lenin once remarked, "The road to Paris lies through Peking." Today, Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung realize that the road to America lies through Southeast Asia—and they are traveling that road at a dangerously fast pace.

If the United States allows South Vietnam to fall, as we allowed Laos to fall, the people of Asia will begin to believe that Khrushchev was right when he said, "The horse you are riding in the United States is an old horse. It was a fine horse at one time, but now it is old and worn out and beginning to go lame. But the horse we're riding, our Communist horse, is young and vigorous and spirited, and we are going to pass you up and win the race."

Most Americans realize that Berlin is worth risking war because it symbolizes the great U.S. and its Allies allow the ideals and human rights to which, as President Kennedy said in his Inaugural Address, yet full freedom to create in this country has always been committed, and to which we are committed today. South Vietnam is worth risking war for the very same reason.

What Asians Think

President Diem of South Vietnam believes that "Danger will increase so long as the cause it symbolizes the great U.S. and its Allies allow the Communists to have full security in their own countries and said in his Inaugural Address, yet full freedom to create in this country has always been committed, and to which we are committed today. South Vietnam is worth risking war for the very same reason."

President Garcia of the Philippines believes that "US methods of dealing with Communist subversion in this area should be re-examined, revised, and made more effective."

The danger of war in South Vietnam is greater than the



NGO DINH DIEM
victim of nibbling

Prime Minister Sarit Thanarat of Thailand says that his countrymen feel "disappointed and frustrated" because of American "inaction and indecisiveness."

Chiang Kai-Shek warns that "If the Western powers cling to the idea of 'Europe first, Asia second,' they will only plunge the world into a total enslavement by the Communists."

Need Action

Berlin and South Vietnam are not two separate crises, but rather two parts of the same crisis—Communism's threat to our way of life.

America must be ready and determined to meet the Communist challenges wherever they arise. Those Americans who believe that we should only defend the West thinking that "Asians don't really care whether or not they live under Communism" should remember that Vice-President Johnson noted in his trip through Asia that "Asians have both the will to resist tyranny and the determination . . ."

Senator Barry Goldwater warns that if we continue to allow the Communists to nibble away at the free world as they have been doing since the end of World War II, "We will lose our country after country and someday the country we lose will be our own." Goldwater believes that we must "wage a war of attrition against them" and "try to make the Communist world free." "Our strategy," he says, "must be primarily offensive in nature."

There is danger in Berlin, in South Vietnam, and in other parts of the world. We cannot turn our backs on it; we cannot pretend that it isn't there. As William J. Lederer, co-author of "The Ugly American," wrote in his current best-seller, "A Nation of Sheep."—"The television screens may be bright and our comfortable homes may be warm, but outside it is beginning to grow dark and cold."

The crisis we are in is grave; the conflict is severe. In this crisis and conflict, at a time in history when America stands at a crossroads, we should remember what Thomas Paine wrote in "The Crisis," at the time that this nation was being born—"Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."



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Crime Rate Up, Trend Worsens

Washington—(RNS)—The year 1960 was the blackest for crime in the history of the United States, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reported here.

Rising ominously for the past decade, the crime rate increased by 14 per cent during the year, as 1,861,000 serious crimes were reported to police, an increase of 230,870 over the previous record set in 1959.

The number of crimes committed in 1960 was almost twice the number of offenses reported to police in 1950, an increase of 98 per cent over the past decade.

With population gaining only 18 per cent in this period, this means that the crime rate per capita is now 66 per cent greater than ten years ago.

The extent of criminality in American society was indicated by the fact that there were 3,640 arrests by police for each 100,000 population. The arrest rate in cities was three times higher than in rural areas, but crime is increasing in rural areas and small towns at a rate even greater than in large cities.

In both areas, the increase is more than four times the rate of population growth. During a year in which a murder was committed every 58 minutes, every category of crime showed an increase, the annual FBI report showed.

A crime of some kind is committed every 15 seconds, Mr. Hoover reported. A forcible rape occurs every 34 minutes, a stabbing or other aggravated assault every four minutes, a burglary every 39 seconds. An automobile is stolen every two minutes.

Juvenile delinquency reached a level that not even the most pessimistic alarmists foresaw. Juvenile arrests more than doubled since 1950 and increased nine per cent in 1960 with adult arrests increasing only one per cent.

One youth out of every 26 between the ages of 10 and 17

was in serious trouble with police during the year.

The direct cost of the crime bill to the American people is mounting rapidly, the FBI said, with over \$570,000,000 worth of property stolen by thieves last year. The average loss per case: robbery, \$258; burglary, \$183; larceny, \$74; and auto theft, \$830.

Meanwhile, the nation's hard-working police handled 15 million violations of traffic laws and wrote 31 million parking tickets.

A total of 48 police officers died in the line of duty—28 the victims of murder. Over 9,000 policemen were assaulted in making arrests, many sustaining serious injuries.

Rackets Control

Washington—(RNS)—The Senate passed and sent to the House six of the seven tough new anti-racketeering bills proposed by President Kennedy to curb the operations of organized crime.

The measures are aimed to strike a blow at use of interstate commerce or communication facilities by organized gamblers and thus to curtail a major source of revenue for racketeers and mobsters.

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