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Viet Nam 'Farce'

Americans should be gratified that our press has treated the Viet Nam coup candidly. But it is a sad commentary that no political leader has stood up to disapprove the Kennedy administration's role in the overthrow of a friendly and constitutionally established government in that unfortunate land. Likewise no voice of protest is heard from the United Nations about the slaying of Diem and his brother although that institution was greatly perturbed over the suicide of a few Buddhist monks.

What a farce! The Pilate-like attitude of our officials should be recorded in history for what it is—*zucht*. Now we consort with murderers, those who had sworn their loyalty to Diem and then, with our encouragement, betrayed and killed him. I wonder if the Kennedy administration ever heard that familiar legal term—*particeps criminis*?

The crude discourtesy shown Madame Nhu here in Washington now clears up—those who displayed their incivility had already placed her husband and brother-in-law under diplomatic condemnation.

In the name of justice the answers to give questions should be demanded: Why did the State Department rush to recognize the junta's rebel regime? Why are the

murderers not brought to trial? Why did American officials turn the third brother over to the rebels? Why were the Diem children flown to Rome instead of to their mother?

Dan P. Van Gorder.

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Doesn't it appear strange that the Administration has so anxiously extended diplomatic recognition to the military junta in South Viet Nam, although the anti-Communist juntas in the Dominican Republic and Honduras still await United States recognition after more than six weeks?

This inconsistency is not so strange when it is noted that the Buddhist high priest, Thich Tri Quang, accused by Diem's government of being pro-Communist, was given asylum in our embassy in Saigon since last August, but when Ngo Dinh Can, brother of President Diem, sought asylum at the United States consulate at Hue, he was handed over to the rebel regime.

Ngo Dinh Can was not a government official, but he was immediately flown 400 miles in a United States military plane and turned over by United States officials to the rebel junta, despite the fact there was yet no organized Viet Nam government which we recognized.

It seems to me the Senate

should be petitioned to tear the roof off the State Department Building and rake the policy-makers out into the cold light of day for a thorough examination. Maybe they could determine whose State Department it is.

Hans Birken

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The recently reported accusation by the 14 general revolutionary committee which seized power in South Viet Nam, "that Ngo Dinh Nhu was negotiating with the Reds for a reunification of North and South Viet Nam under a neutralist banner," should be viewed with suspicion, in light of the continuously used doctrine of the Communists in their scheme for world conquest, which is to always accuse their enemy of what they are doing themselves.

Until this new regime has proven its worth by action as astutely anti-Communist as was that of Ngo Dinh Diem's government, we must wonder whether or not we have fallen into a Communist trap and lost Southeast Asia even while we labored in the hope that we were at the very least sustaining a holding action in that vital area.

We must, I suppose, hope for the best and yet be prepared for what may be the worst bungle in foreign policy since the establishment of the State Department and CIA partnership.

John W. Adams, Jr.

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