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focus 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, AUGUST 12--South Vietnam's looming economic crisis is causing almost as much concern to Vietnamese and American officials here as the oft-predicted, yet-to-happen Communist military offensive. Of particular worry to Allied economic and financial specialists is that inflation is expected to ~~gapp~~ gallop towards an explosively critical point in October or shortly thereafter. To counter this economic threat, Allied officials have discussed five drastic and potentially unpopular measures, some of which are still secret. ^{These five} measures are: ^{ANOTHER} devaluation of the piastre, ^{V. VIETNAMESE} increase of Vietnamese taxes, rationing of necessary commodities, invalidating certain ^{AND THE} denominations of Vietnamese banknotes and direct importing by ^{of} commodities by the Vietnamese government instead of relying on ^{Commercial} the business channels which are now afraid to invest. ^{IN No. 10000}

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focus 2 (normass/deepe)

A heroes' welcome is reportedly being scheduled for the first American combat unit returning to the United States after service in Vietnam. The 27th Marines (Regimental Landing Team) of the 5th Marine Division is currently ~~scheduled~~ scheduled to return to mainland USA in August or early September--and will be met with political hoopla praising them and the American fighting men still in Vietnam. This is not repeat not the beginning of the much-discussed American withdrawal or phase-out from Vietnam. It is simply an "administrative withdrawal," military officials here point out. One battalion of the 27th Marines was on amphibious maneuvers preparing to land for a training exercise on Taiwan ~~for an amphibious landing~~ when the Communist Tet offensive ^{THE MARINES} swirled over Vietnam in late January. The ~~1~~ ship shifted courses and landed in Vietnam within days; the other two battalions were ~~airlift~~ airlifted from their home base of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and were in Vietnam within 72 hours after the Communist ~~attacked~~ ^{ATTACKED}. Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford announced on April 11 that the 5000-man unit--part of the American strategic reserve--would be withdrawn and replaced by the U. S. Army 5th Mechanized Brigade, which has just completed its move to Vietnam. The 27th Marines is being returned to Camp Pendleton--where it is still critically needed to serve as part of the American strategic reserve. Its withdrawal does not alter the Johnson Administration's authorized ceiling of 549,000 American troops for Vietnam, of which 538,000 are currently serving on Vietnamese territory.

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