

## BOMBING DILEMMA

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT WIN THIS WAR WITHOUT BOMBING, BUT IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY TO WIN BY BOMBING ALONE.

ITEM

X-4 (SAIGON)

FYI, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM A BYLINER BY BEVERLY DEEPE FROM NEWYORKHERALDTRIBUNE, SEPT.5: 1965

### A NATIVE CRITIC ON U.S. ROLE

SAIGON--"YOU AMERICANS SHOULD NOT BE UNE FLECHE DE PAILLE-A STRAW ARROW," THE YOUNG VIETNAMESE PROVINCE CHIEF EXPLAINED, CAREFULLY LIGHTING A FILTER CIGARETTE. "YOU CANNOT BE HAUGHTY AND ARROGANT LIKE A TURKEY. YOU MUST HELP US TO INCREASE THE PRESTIGE OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND YOU MUST RESPECT VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY."

"YOU AMERICANS MUST WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE--BUT THE VIETNAMESE MUST ALWAYS BE IN THE FOREFRONT, LEADING THE PROJECTS," HE EXPLAINED. "THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS WHERE THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY VIET CONG (COMMUNIST) PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE EVILS OF THE AMERICANS. THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY--THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM, BUT ONLY WANTS TO FREE IT FROM THE COMMUNISTS.

"BUT WHAT HAPPENS? IN MY PROVINCE, ALL SORTS OF AMERICANS GO DIRECTLY TO THE HAMLETS AND VILLAGES--TO PASS OUT BOOKS OR TO INSPECT A PROJECT--WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ME, OR CHECKING IN WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. ONE DAY I WENT TO VISIT A VERY POOR ORPHANAGE IN MY PROVINCE. I SPOTTED AN AMERICAN WHOM I HAD MET BEFORE. HE WAS SITTING IN HIS CAR--AND DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO GET OUT TO SAY HELLO. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS DOING THERE --WITHOUT MY PERMISSION AND WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HE WAS OUT THERE. I TOLD HIM GET OUT/EXCLAMAT./ GET OUT/EXCLAMAT./



/EXCL./ YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE HERE/EXCL/ AND HE LEFT.

INNOCENTS

"EVERY ONE KNOWS THE AMERICANS HAVE A BIG HEART AND HAVE THE VERY BEST INTENTIONS," HE EXPLAINED. "BUT YOU ARE SO INNOCENT. YOU LIKE TO BE FLATTERED--AND YOU MUST KNOW THE VIETNAMESE ARE THE NO. 1 FLATTERERS IN THE WORLD.

"YOUR AMERICAN (MILITARY) ADVISORS ARE VERY GOOD MILITARY TECHNICIANS, BUT WE NEED SOME ONE WITH GOOD POLITICAL BRAINS, BECAUSE WE ARE FIGHTING THE MOST INSIDIOUS, THE MOST POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS ENEMY OF ALL--THE COMMUNISTS. BUT THE AMERICANS COME TO VIET NAM WITH A NEW YORK MIND, OR AN ATLANTA MIND, BUT NOT AN ORIENTAL MIND.

HE THEN BEGAN TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGIC HOP TAC PROGRAM--THE AMERICAN-BACKED PROGRAM TO SECURE AND PACIFY THE PROVINCES AROUND SAIGON.

"THE VIETNAMESE BUDGET RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER," THE PROVINCE CHIEF EXPLAINED. "BUT THE AMERICAN BUDGET RUNS FROM JUNE TO JULY. SO IN THE PROVINCES LAST YEAR, WE DIDN'T GET ANY MONEY UNTIL SEPTEMBER--WHEN THE UNITED STATES APPROPRIATIONS CAME THROUGH. THAT LEFT ME FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER--THREE MONTHS--TO PACIFY 100 HAMLETS--WHAT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ME A YEAR. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO.

"NOW, IT IS APRIL, AND I'VE SUBMITTED MY 1965 PACIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE PROVINCE. BUT IT STILL HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED. I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE TWO REGULAR ARMY BATTALIONS IN MY PROVINCE FOR THE PACIFICATION WORK--TO CHASE OUT THE VIET CONG BATTALIONS. BUT STILL I DON'T HAVE THEM."

"THEN THERE'S THE QUESTION OF JUSTICE. YOU KNOW AN OLD BEGGAR MAN ON SOCIAL WELFARE GET TWO PIASTRES A DAY FROM THE GOVERNMENT--THAT'S LESS THAN \$1 A MONTH. BUT IN THE PROVINCES, WE SPEND 11 PIASTRES A DAY TO FEED THE VIET CONG PRISONERS. OF COURSE, WE HAVE THE NATIONAL POLICY TO RE-EDUCATE THE VIET CONG--BUT IS THAT JUSTICE?

ITEM *End*