

# Taylor's Farewell: Pleasure and Sadness

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SAIGON.

Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor bade farewell in Saigon yesterday, but his message of the day was one of welcome—to 3,700 paratroopers of the 101st "Screaming Eagles" Airborne Division, including his son, Capt. Thomas Happer Taylor, 31, a member of the division.

The ambassador's particular "pleasure and some sadness" in his welcome was because of his association with the division. The last time a Screaming Eagle faced an enemy bullet was just over 20 years ago when with Gen. Taylor in command, the 101st began the conquest of Normandy. Later,

it took part in the bloody defense of Bastogne.

"The 101st will write new pages in the history of this war," said the Ambassador, "a new war, a new kind of war.

"You will meet an enemy who is shrewd and well-trained and has the guile of the North American Indian. In the days ahead, if the Viet Cong should prove a formidable enemy, you can always remember our days at Bastogne."

Meanwhile, it was announced yesterday that the arrival of the nearly 4,000 members of the 101st is not a part of the build-up cited by President Johnson in his Wednesday address to the nation. In addition to the 75,000 troops currently in Viet

Nam, together with the President's planned addition of 50,000 and the newly arrived 101st, U. S. strength will total 129,000.

Ambassador Taylor will depart from Saigon today, "but not all the Taylor will be leaving Viet Nam," he said. His son, who arrived three weeks ago with an advance element, is a member of the division intelligence staff.

Yesterday the Ambassador said goodbye to the Saigon diplomatic corps and members of the American community prior to the arrival of Henry Cabot Lodge for his second tour of duty. A few observers recalled one of the speeches Gen. Taylor made shortly after arriving here one year and three weeks ago.

He mentioned having read

newspaper reports that Sen. Robert Kennedy, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk had volunteered for the tough assignment as ambassador.

"But I was chosen," he told his audience. "I had that one quality none of the others possessed. I was expendable."

During 40 years in the Army, Gen. Taylor had devoted his career to one objective: American victory in war. In World War II and in Korea, he was to see the bitterest fighting. When he urged the bombing of North Viet Nam, he saw as the objective forcing the Communists to the conference table.

After Korea, Gen. Taylor opposed sending American

troops to fight a ground war in Asia. But since his arrival in Viet Nam he has seen a buildup from 23,000 fighting men to more than three times that number. Now, with President Johnson's announcement, U. S. forces will be more than five times the total when the Ambassador assumed his duties.

Long considered one of the most politically astute of American generals, Gen. Taylor resigned in the late fifties in protest against America's super-reliance on nuclear power. His book, "The Uncertain Trumpet" was an attempt to convince others—he did. By 1961, President Kennedy appointed him military representative of the President and a year later appointed him

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But the increasing numbers of American ground troops have yet to prove they can defeat the guerrilla-subversive in war.

On the political front, Gen. Taylor consistently beseeched Vietnamese statesmen, generals, bureaucrats and religious leaders to unify their efforts for political stability. But instead there was a succession of coups, counter-coups, false-coups and demi-coups and constant intrigue.

Part of the problem was considered to be the widespread Communist penetration within the national government, police, armed forces, student and religious groupings.