

*Foreign Policy*

also wishes to regain her sphere of influence in the surrounding territories of Asia including southeast Asia and particularly the part which is now North and South Viet Nam.

At the present time China appears to be a particularly difficult country with which to deal. We have all seen evidence of this. Diplomats representing countries which have been very anxious to recognize China have been dragged through the streets; their wives and children have been beaten up, put in fear of their lives and made to do all sorts of things which are degrading. Some years ago, rightly or wrongly, the United States decided that it was advisable to check Chinese expansion by entering South Viet Nam at the request of the South Viet Nam government. This request was made because a revolutionary group known as the Viet Cong, assisted and abetted by North Viet Nam by the infiltration of war materials, weapons and men, was making the task of the civilian government impossible. The attack was, in fact, similar to the attack made on south Korea a few years earlier. In passing, it is worthy of note that in modern days war does not necessarily mean some formal military activity; it can equally mean subversion, infiltration and so on, varieties of modern warfare which are just as effective.

Another point is worth noting, one which is often disregarded in the press and elsewhere. The United States is not the only nation which is closely concerned in this affair. Asian and Pacific nations are just as concerned. I refer to Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Japan, to mention only a few. Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and south Korea have troops actively fighting in South Viet Nam—a fact which is often overlooked or played down for some reason. The United States is not the only country which has troops there. These other countries have forces there as well.

Recently there has been a great deal of talk about the bombing of North Viet Nam. The United States has made it clear that as long as military supplies, weapons and men continue to enter South Viet Nam from North Viet Nam it will be extremely difficult for the government of South Viet Nam to control that country effectively, and that the flow of these supplies must be stopped. It has also been made clear—and some of our United States colleagues made this clear to us the other day—that the United States recognizes that if North Viet Nam were openly invaded by

United States forces there would be great danger of China actively entering the conflict.

Demands are repeatedly made that the bombing should be stopped. All of us are interested in seeing a negotiated peace. If there is a possibility that stopping the bombing in North Viet Nam would assist in bringing about these negotiations, I think we would all be in agreement. As has been suggested by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), by the spokesman for the New Democratic party and by a great many others outside this house, stop the bombing and see what happens. Frankly, I do not see that it would make any difference. But if there is any hope of results from such a move I think it should be tried. Certainly, the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong might well cease for a period of time to see whether the other side responds; but it must be remembered of course, that on previous occasions when bombing was stopped North Viet Nam simply profited by the occasion to deliver enormous quantities of supplies and military equipment into South Viet Nam resulting in a substantial increase of hostilities there. As an experiment it certainly might be worth while to cease bombing Hanoi and that area, even at the risk of this happening again, but I certainly think that the immediate supply routes from the north to the south should not be given this immunity unless some undertaking is received to stop the flow of supplies.

One interesting suggestion has been made—and I am led to understand it is presently in process of being carried out. It is that in order to stop effectively the flow of military supplies from North to South Viet Nam a wall be built across the country between the north and south, and extended through Laos. This would of course be a very expensive project. The idea, as I understand it, would be to build some sort of wall or fence which would be cleared of vegetation on both sides and which would effectively prevent infiltration. It must be extended through Laos—otherwise it would be like the old Maginot Line which was not extended across the Belgian frontier, and was not therefore very effective.

If such a wall or fence were completed in the near future it would of course greatly reduce the necessity for any bombing or active hostilities in North Viet Nam itself. It would seal off the flow of military supplies from the north and enable the government of South Viet Nam to look after its own territory without having to worry about the further