

REPORT FROM SOUTH VIETNAM



INSPECTION TEAM, General Taylor, left, and Defense Secretary McNamara, report to President on U. S. military aid and political troubles in South Vietnam.

From the top men of his defense team—Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor—President Kennedy got this report on South Vietnam—

- Progress is being made in the U. S.-supported campaign against Red guerrillas, and most of the 14,000 U. S. troops there can be brought home by the end of 1965. One thousand training troops probably can be withdrawn this year.

- The political crisis inside South Vietnam and “repressive actions” by the regime haven’t affected the military effort significantly—yet. But they “could do so in the future.”

Defense Secretary McNamara and General Taylor, who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited South Vietnam in late September. They were sent to get a close-up look at the confusing guerrilla war between Communists and the Government of President Ngo Dinh Diem. The U. S. provides training and support forces and equipment for the South Vietnamese Army. The U. S. is pouring about 1.5 million dollars a day into the fight. American lives have been lost.

Also, the pair went to look into the ruling Ngo family’s political troubles. Harsh tactics against Buddhist-led opposition groups have stirred up criticism.

On their return, October 2, Mr. McNamara and General Taylor met with the President, then with the National Security Council. Later, a White House release gave the gist of their report. And it proclaimed U. S. determination to “adhere to our policy of working with the people and Government of South Vietnam to deny this country to Communism. . . .”