

12 September 1970

H. E. Tran Van Lam  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Government of the Republic of Vietnam  
Saigon, VIETNAM

My Dear Friend:

I am writing briefly ~~but~~ with a sense of utmost urgency on a matter of unusual importance. I speak of the projected visit to this country by Vice President Ky.

From your own long experience, you know that, unfortunately, his reputation among Americans is not good. The reasons for this are many, and are beyond the scope of this letter. What is very important at this juncture, however, is the fact that his proposed visit would be sponsored by a Protestant minister who represents a small, extremely vocal, and highly questionable segment of extreme right-wing American opinion. Rev. McIntire is considered to be viciously anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic. He enjoys support from organizations of bigots, including Fascist and Fascist-tending fringe groups which are generally referred to in this country as "hate groups."

I should like to urge you as strongly as I know how, to intervene with President Thieu and Vice President Ky to cancel this ill-destined trip to the United States. If it is the desire of your government to develop public support here for Vietnam and its survival, there are other and better ways to do so. (You will recall, I am sure, how hard I have tried to further the idea of a formal visit by President Thieu, and of preceding his visit with one by a selected group of senior defectors from the PAVN. I still believe that both of these visits should be made as soon as possible.)

As I see it, a visit by General Ky under the auspices of Rev. McIntire might well become a disaster, both for him (Ky) personally, and for the Government of Vietnam -- and possibly for President Nixon's policy of gradual withdrawal as well. I am greatly concerned that it may provide just the stimulus needed (and now missing) by our extreme left-wing groups (as have attacked our universities and the entire concept of support for Vietnam) to launch further attacks and create even greater problems in the year now beginning.

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Warmest wishes to you and to all of our friends. Our thoughts are with you at all times.

Very sincerely,

Wesley R. Fishel  
Editor