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the Associated Press and was on the board of Marshall Field Enterprises.

Surviving are his wife, Katherine, who was formerly married to the late Marshall Field IV, a son and two daughters from previous marriages, and a stepson and two stepdaughters.

POSSIBLE INVASION OF NORTH VIETNAM

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, yesterday the Senator from Ohio (Mr. SAXBE) and I introduced a bill, S. 974, to prohibit both an invasion of North Vietnam by U.S. ground forces and U.S. combat air support for a South Vietnamese invasion of the North.

We are deeply concerned at the ominous signs that such an invasion may be under consideration.

As I pointed out yesterday, President Thieu, of South Vietnam, is reported to have openly advocated an invasion.

This morning there are disturbing new reports that President Thieu is not only predicting an invasion, but has also asked the South Vietnamese general staff to draw up detailed plans for an American-supported attack across the borders of North Vietnam.

These reports—filed by correspondents in Vietnam—merit the most serious consideration by Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that articles published in the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THIEU ASKS PLANNING OF DRIVE INTO NORTH SOUTH VIETNAM'S CHIEF DESCRIBES MOVE AS BEING "ONLY A MATTER OF TIME"

(By Michael Parks)

SAIGON, Feb. 25.—President Nguyen Van Thieu has asked the South Vietnamese general staff to draw plans for an American-supported invasion of North Vietnam, an operation he described yesterday as being "only a matter of time."

President Thieu asked for detailed plans for a series of coordinated strikes across the demarcation zone and at points farther north along the Lao border, according to usually reliable South Vietnamese military sources.

The plans presumably would call for extensive American air support. President Nixon and other American officials have pointedly refused to rule out such an operation.

WEEKEND CONFERENCES HELD

Their statements had been generally regarded as attempts to deter North Vietnam from sending troops to counterattack allied forces assaulting the Ho Chi Minh trail but it was unclear whether President Thieu is engaged in a similar feint.

He reportedly made the request for battle plans after a series of weekend conferences with top South Vietnamese generals, who are said to have urged him to strike now at Communist troops and supplies in the North while enough U.S. troops remain to support the invasion.

Mr. Thieu also asked for a diplomatic assessment of whether Communist Chinese troops would be sent to aid North Viet * * * invaded, according to South Vietnamese and foreign sources here.

Both requests were said to have been made early Monday. On Wednesday, President Thieu told local leaders in the Central Highlands city of Pleiku that "a march north . . . is only a matter of time," the official government news agency reported.

"NOT JUST PLANNING EXERCISE"

In Saigon, government spokesmen declined to elaborate or clarify the reversal of the President's Public position but several military planners at the Joint General Staff said they had been specifically told that "this is not just a planning exercise."

American officials, caught by surprise by the statement, said they believe the plans were "only for contingency purposes, just a routine updating."

Some Americans also suggested that the reports of a planned invasion, which have been circulating for three weeks, were meant to force the North Vietnamese to dilute their opposition to the allied operations in Laos by keeping more troops at home.

Diplomatic sources here reported, however, that representatives of at least three countries that have diplomatic relations with China have been asked for their assessments of whether Chinese troops would be sent to aid North Vietnam if it were invaded.

"PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE"

This prompted one ranking diplomat to comment, "this whole thing is an elaborate psychological warfare operation. If they were going to invade, they wouldn't go around announcing it. But that's what I said about the Laos operations, too."

President Nixon, speaking with newsmen last week, refused to speculate on the possibility of American air support for a South Vietnamese invasion of North Vietnam.

While American participation would have to be approved in Washington, Mr. Nixon said that "South Vietnam now, as we withdraw, has an ever-increasing responsibility to defend itself. South Vietnam will have to make decisions with regard to its ability to defend itself."

THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP

Shortly after the U.S.-South Vietnamese invasion of Laos, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said the next logical step would be an invasion of North Vietnam, a course of action he has long advocated.

William P. Rogers, the U.S. Secretary of State, said then that such an operation was "Not under consideration now." He declined to comment further, saying the proposal was not that of President Thieu.

Gen. Do Cao Tri, who was killed in a helicopter crash Tuesday told newsmen last week that "hypothetically speaking, the most effective way to shut off the enemy's supply line is to destroy it at its origins in North Vietnam."

But General Tri warned that "there are many very difficult military problems involved in an invasion of the North. The enemy's defenses would be very heavy, our supply lines very vulnerable and the prospect of long campaign very large."

**THIEU SAID TO PREDICT ATTACK ON NORTH
SOON**

(By Peter Osnos)

SAIGON, February 25.—President Thieu, who until this week had expressed no eagerness to invade North Vietnam, was quoted today as saying a drive across the Demilitarized Zone would take place "in the near future."

Regional and local militias, the president reportedly said, "are able enough to take firm control of internal territory. Main forces can have a free hand for action. Thus a march to the north is only a matter of time."

Thieu's statement, quoted by a number of Saigon newspapers, was made in remarks yesterday in Pleiku to a hawkish audience of 5,000 civil servants and Montagnards.

The crowd, which was said to have enthusiastically applauded mention of the Laos invasion, cheered when Thieu said there would be a "march to the north in order to attack the lair of aggressive Communists directly. This will occur in the near future."

The president's aides could not be reached

tonight for confirmation of what he had said. But one government spokesman said the newspapers that printed the remarks were "all right."

It was the second time in three days that Thieu had spoken of a possible South Vietnamese drive to the north, but the latest declaration represents a significant escalation of rhetoric.

In Vungtau Monday Thieu said: "If we dare to launch operations into neutral Cambodia and Laos, why shouldn't we dare to attack the very origin of aggression?"

Whether or not an invasion is actually being planned, Thieu's attitude is seen here as having two immediate benefits for the Saigon government:

First, it diverts local attention from the fighting in Laos, where a South Vietnamese ranger battalion took heavy losses last weekend and the operation to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail is apparently bogged down.

Second, the sabre-rattling is likely to make the North Vietnamese uneasy, meaning they will keep their forces deployed above the DMZ rather than send them against the South Vietnamese in Laos.

The American embassy had no comment on Thieu's statement. A spokesman said that efforts to reach the president's staff for elaboration tonight had been unsuccessful.

While Thieu often takes an uncompromisingly hard line against the Communists before sympathetic audiences, veteran observers here could not recall him advocating a northern invasion—let alone predicting that it would soon take place.

This kind of talk, until now, had only been heard from Vice President Ky, whom officials in Saigon and Washington refuse to take seriously.

Thieu, some observers believe, may be attempting to outflank Ky in hawkish Vietnamese circles that have been calling for an invasion of North Vietnam as a natural follow to the Laotian operation.

While the accuracy of the newspaper reports of Thieu's remarks have not been officially confirmed, the government has not discouraged their publication. If the accounts were embarrassing the president, the papers could have been seized or at least warned against repetition.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, recently the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. PROXMIRE) made a statement that appeared to be highly critical of the Department of Agriculture. The statement would cause many who read the RECORD to believe that the Department of Agriculture under Secretary Hardin's management was increasing the number of people employed in the bureaucracy that was serving the farmers of our country.

All of us would like to see the number of Government employees reduced. I think this includes not only farm citizens back home but members of the Cabinet, such as Secretary Hardin, and many Members of the Congress. I certainly would applaud any effort to reduce the payroll by any reasonable means. It is important that the record be set straight. It is important that we examine what has happened in the Department of Agriculture since Secretary Hardin took office. It does not show an increase in the number of employees administering our agricultural programs.

In the fiscal year 1968 the total number of full-time employees in the Department of Agriculture was 85,397. The esti-