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Ky Tells U.S. Its Viet Role Ends 'Soon'

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NEW YORK, Nov. 16 — South Vietnam's Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky slipped uneventfully into New York last evening under heavy security guard to begin an unofficial two-and-a-half-week visit to the United States.

Mr. Ky said today that the U.S. role in his country "will be over very soon."

"I said five years ago I wanted you (the United States) to help us so some day we could take over by ourselves," Mr. Ky told newsmen at the U.S. Military Academy. "Your role is not quite over but I expect your role will be over very soon."

He said he was "personally very happy" with the Vietnamization program. Those were the only public comments Mr. Ky made during a brief interview outside the home of the West Point superintendent, Maj. Gen. William A. Knowlton, where Mr. Ky spent the night.

Most of his visit to the military academy was closed to newsmen, including an address to the senior corps of cadets.

He had arrived in New York from Paris aboard a Trans World Airlines jetliner that was diverted to the General Aviation Terminal at Kennedy International Airport as a security precaution. The terminal is about a mile from the TWA passenger complex.

Pickers on Hand

Despite the diversion of the plane, 21 anti-war pickets were stationed outside the terminal, which is normally used by private aircraft. They waved placards reading, "End the war now," and chanted in chorus, "Ky, go home! Ky go home!"

The terminal was surrounded by a cordon of Secret Service agents, New York City policemen and military guards.

The Student Mobilization Committee to End the War had vowed to mass thousands of protesters at each of Mr. Ky's stops, which will include the naval base at Newport, R.I.; the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo.; former President Lyndon B. Johnson's ranch in Texas and a meeting with President Nixon in Washington.

A spokesman for the Kennedy Airport demonstrators, Eva Chertow, who was a Socialist Workers party candidate for Congress, said there would be further demonstrations against Mr. Ky's visit later this week in Washington and San Francisco.

"Nixon is insulting us by letting Ky come here," she said. "It's like rubbing the war in our faces."

Mr. Ky was greeted at planeside by Bui Diem, the South Vietnamese ambassador to Washington, and William H. Sullivan, deputy assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs. Mr. Ky declined to answer questions but said he had come to "express the gratitude of my countrymen to the people of the United States."

A few minutes later, Mr. Ky, his wife and the members of his official party left the terminal in a motorcade bound for West Point.