

'US has no Laotian intent'

by MARY PAT FOWLER
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The U.S. does not intend to get involved in Laos, said a State Department official Tuesday at the University.

However, "does not intend" is not the same as "will not," he added.

"We don't intend to get involved in Laos. The government is keeping it in mind that the American people don't want to be swept into the affairs of other countries," Richard F. Pedersen, advisor to the Secretary of State, said.

PEDERSEN CAME to Nebraska to make a educational television film on foreign policy problems and "to try to establish contact with young people in order to know better what they are thinking."

"It is the U.S. policy, as stated by President Nixon in his Guam speech, that Asians should take on more of their own responsibilities," Pedersen said.

Pedersen said, however, that he was not in a position to talk about the increased U.S. bombing in Laos. There has been

testimony behind closed doors in the Senate about the bombing.

"THE UNITED STATES is in Laos to restore the conditions of the 1962 Geneva Agreements to keep Laos a neutral country," Pedersen said.

United States troops in Laos do aerial reconnaissance and patrol the Ho Chi Minh trail.

"Our commitment in Laos has been strengthened because of the presence of a large number of Chinese and North Vietnamese troops in Laos." The total number of Americans in Laos is no more than 1,000, he said.

PEDERSEN has worked with the United Nations since 1950, before his appointment in January 1969 as Counselor of the State Department.

Pedersen commented that U.S. policy in Vietnam has changed through the influence of young people.

"After the Moratorium, I helped to write a statement in New York which showed that we understand and support the dissent of the young people," he said.

"Our only alternative is to go on with Vietnamization, which is really coming along very well. The South Vietnamese are getting stronger."

"How long it will be before we are out of Vietnam depends on how strong we have to make the Vietnamese, which depends on how much the North Vietnamese escalate the war," he continued.

WHAT THE VIETNAMESE need is training, according to Pedersen. "The South Vietnamese have the numbers (about a million men); they just have to be taught how to use these men."

Vietnamization will bring
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Ambassador
Richard
Peterson

Intramurals:

A problem of priorities

by CAROL ANDERSON
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The men's intramural program at the University was described as having "the worst

facilities and the best program" by the director of men's intramural activities at Tuesday's Council on Student Life meeting.

In response to Ray Chatfield's bleak picture of facilities, CSL voted to ask President Joseph Soshnik to form an advisory committee on intramurals, free play and park-like areas.

Vice Chancellor Robert Ross called the lack of adequate facilities "a problem of priorities." The need for new buildings and parking have caused "rather intense shortages."

Ina Anderson, assistant professor of Women's P.E.,

testified that the Women's P.E. building is fully used by classes and women's intramurals including coed sports. But CSL member Bill Chaloupka called the WPE building "the best P.E. facility we have and probably the least used."

The use of the Coliseum for intramurals is restricted because of varsity games and practices, he said. Chatfield also said he had tried to use the Abel-Sandoz swimming pool for water polo games but couldn't. The pool in the Women's P.E. building is off limits because it lacks men's dressing rooms.

Chatfield described the four men's paddle ball courts as "18th century dungeons."

Newsmen review drug abuse problem

Apparently many Nebraskan adults have no idea that a drug problem could exist among their sons and daughters, according to Lee Terry of KETV in Omaha.

Terry and John Hanlon of Lincoln's KFOR radio presented an inventory on what has been done about the illegal use of drugs in Nebraska to the Governor's Conference on Drug Abuse Monday.

Terry reported that out of 271 elementary and secondary schools contacted in the state, 134 had programs on drug abuse. The programs ranged from one visit by a local law enforcement officer to 100 hours of drug education by various authorities.

Terry warned that schools have to be careful not to force through their drug abuse programs. He added that if a school's program is to have an effect, the information given must be correct. "Let them say something wrong and they're finished," he said.

Hanlon reported on the activity of Nebraska law enforcement agencies. A 3,000 per cent increase in arrests for illegal possession of drugs occurred from 1966 to 1969. In 1966, 17 persons were arrested as compared to 510 last year. Hanlon attributed the increase in part to the passage of the legislative bill on drug abuse early in 1969.

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