

Vietnamese nationalist will compare Carter administration with Nixon's

By Debora Hemminger

A Vietnamese nationalist who compares President Carter's administration to former President Nixon's will speak Tuesday at UNL.

David Truong said he was under surveillance by the FBI in 1976. He said President Carter ordered his phone tapped, his mail opened and his apartment broken into without judicial warrant in 1977. The next year, Truong was arrested, convicted and sentenced to 15 years in jail or a \$250,000 fine for espionage.

Eric Johnson, a member of the Talks and Topics Committee which is sponsoring the speech, claimed that Truong was convicted to allow Carter to reestablish that the president can act illegally in the name of national security.

Truong contends that he was made an example because of bad feelings in America about the Vietnamese conflict.

Truong, who is free on bail, said he is appealing the verdict. The appeal will be heard Dec. 6.

Truong is a 1968 graduate of Stanford University. He was attending classes at George Washington University when he was arrested.

Truong was arrested with Ronald Humphrey, a U.S. Information Agency official. Humphrey was charged with allegedly giving Truong information illegally. Johnson said Truong allegedly passed the information on to a Vietnamese newspaper in Paris.

A press release said the documents were alleged to contain the official American viewpoint of political activity and intelligence assessments in Thailand and Vietnam.

In 1969, Truong and former political columnist Drew Pearson set up the Vietnam Political Freedom Committee. In 1971, he was active in the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars.

In 1975, he helped organize the Vietnamese-American Reconciliation Center, which dealt with Vietnamese refugee resettlement and readjustment.

Truong's father opposed General Thieu in South Vietnam in 1967. He was imprisoned for five years. He had campaigned for a negotiated settlement of the war.

Since Truong has been released from jail on bond, he has been speaking at universities around the country. He said he must receive court permission to give the speeches or travel. He also must report to authorities three times a week.

Johnson said he thought it was interesting that Alexander Ginzburg, a Russian dissident, was not considered a political or ideological speaker, but Truong another dissident was considered a political speaker. He also said the government is more interested in Truong's conviction than in national security.

Truong is scheduled to attend a brown bag luncheon at the Law College Tuesday at 1-2:30 p.m. He will speak in the Centennial Room in the Nebraska Union at 7:30 p.m.

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