

Missionary Predicts Defeat For Reds

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Toledoan Just Back From 5-Year Term In Viet Nam

A missionary who left his post in Viet Nam a week ago says "we are going to win the war."

The Rev. N. Robert Ziemer, referring to the Saigon government-American forces, amplified:

"We've got to win. If the Communists win, that will be the end."

Asked about the consensus of the people with whom he worked in central Viet Nam, he said church people there, for the most part, hope for a decisive victory by government forces over the Viet Cong.

Third 5-Year Term

They fear that it would be difficult to have a church if the country were controlled by Communists.

Mr. Ziemer has just completed his third term of five years each in Viet Nam with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the only sizable Protestant mission in that country, which founded the autonomous Evangelical Church of Viet Nam 54 years ago.

He reports that the Evangelical Church still has adherents in Communist-controlled North Viet Nam composed of those who did not flee when the country was partitioned in 1954. They are permitted to hold services but propagation of their faith, is difficult, he indicated.

At Ban Me Thuot

The last five-year term in Viet Nam for Mr. and Mrs. Ziemer was tense, particularly during the guerrilla combat and bombing.

They were stationed at Ban Me Thuot, in the central highlands, working among mountain tribes people in the Rade language.

In addition, Mr. Ziemer conducted services for American military men in the area.

Just before the Ziemers left, the Viet Cong captured a tribe pastor and tied him up in the jungle for interrogation. Mr. Ziemer had conducted the ordination for this pastor in April. Two other pastors were captured and killed by the Viet Cong, he said.

9-Member Staff

Three American members of the mission staff were abducted three years ago, and they are believed to be alive—based on information from captured prisoners who reported seeing white persons.

The nine-member C&MA staff at Ban Me Thuot has been advised to stay in the city, and not venture into outlying villages. They do not intend to leave the country, although they are alerted to that possibility. The C&MA staff numbers 100 in the whole of South Viet Nam.

The Ziemers helped care for victims of bombings in surrounding Viet Cong concentrations. Evacuation warnings usually are issued in an advance of the bombings, the missionary said.

The Viet Cong make sporadic attacks on nearby villages and threaten invasion of the city of Ban Me Thuot.

Mr. Ziemer is scheduled to



—Slide Photo

MISSIONARIES INSPECT JUNGLE CROSSBOW

Mr. and Mrs. Ziemer and Miriam look at weapon once owned by a pastor slain by the Viet Cong

be in the pulpit of the Toledo day tribal language, representing the first time the Bible has been translated into any of the 40 mountain languages.

He was interim pastor there in 1953-54 following the ministry of his father, the late Dr. L. H. Ziemer.

Translating Bible

The younger Mr. Ziemer has spent nearly 15 years translating the New Testament and Psalms into the Rade

Copies of the translation were delivered by the Bible Society of the World, London, just before the Ziemers left Viet Nam.

Their daughter, Miriam, 11, was evacuated from a school for missionary children in Dalat, Viet Nam, to Bangkok, Thailand, at Easter time because of the war.

Two other Ziemer children are in school in the United States, Beth Marie, in nurses training at the Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Time, a student at Nyack Missionary College, N.Y.

The Ziemers hope to return to Viet Nam after spending a year at home, 3628 Harley Rd.