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nixon 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, NOVEMBER 7--The high-level leadership here--which includes many American "hawks" and Vietnamese "eagles"--were relieved, as well as jubilant at the news of Nixon's election victory.

Many Vietnamese and Americans ~~kept their radios on~~ stayed on ~~we~~ up well beyond midnight to listen ~~to~~ to the live radio ~~new~~ election news coverage. A 60-year-old 65 year-old Buddhist refugee from North Vietnam explained, "I listened to the news until two in the morning, ~~until I~~ <sup>was</sup> sure Nixon had won. It was one of the greatest nights of my life. I went to bed and slept soundly and today I feel great."

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Some Vietnamese "eagles"---the Oriental label for "big, big hawks"--- were planning victory celebrations in honor of the GOP contender to whom they were emotionally and politically magnetized because of his more clear-cut Vietnam stand. ~~Unhappy~~ Unhappy Vietnamese were also planning big dinners of sharp's fin soup and roast duck---to play off the bet they lost by gambling on Humphrey.

The ~~Saigon~~ English-language "Saigon Post"---which has been identified as in the past with Vietnamese Ambassador Bui Diem to Washington, Bui Diem, seemed to reflect the typical reaction of Vietnamese government officials. In an editorial labelled "Hello Nixon!", it said:

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"Never has a U. S. presidential election been followed so closely in Vietnam. Policy makers and common people alike, including those who usually are more concerned over their daily bowl of rice than the outcome of an international political event, kept tuned on the Vi Voice of American/ throughout the late, suspenseful hours of Wednesday....Every Vietnamese was praying for a Nixon victory. For in their eyes, the Johnson administration had indeed committed an act of betray by setting about a Vietnam peace settlement ~~in~~ in (it) 'doing what the enemy wants and not repeat not doing what its main ally wants.'

"We hope that Mr. Richard Nixon's first move toward solving the Vietnam problem will be to send a new negotiating team to Paris....Mr. Harriman, despite his reputation as a vieux renard (old fox) in the diplomatic field, has already done too much harm to the cause of freedom in this part of the world with his bent for regarding the National Liberation Front as another representative of the South Vietnamese people."

Expressing the same view, one fervent anti-Communist ~~government official~~ said, "I'm so happy Nixon won. We Vietnamese would all be dead if Humphrey had won."

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