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politics 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, AUGUST 13--The political face of the Viet Vietnamese government and nationalist groupings ^{HERE} is slowly turning towards a new direction--the direction of peace.

Within this new direction, however, there is uncertainty--an agonizing uncertainty about the future, a stark fear about the present, suspicion about the American position and skepticism about which Presidential ^{candidate} will formulate the future American position--and decide the future not simply of their country, but of their personal lives. In short, there is no ^{consensus} ~~consensus~~ about peace within the Vietnamese body politic. Yet, there is considerable debate, discussion, arguing, bickering, even name-calling going on in the legislature, in the press, in political discussions as ^{Non-Communist} ~~somehow~~ the leadership tries to come to grip with the problem.

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politics 2 (normass/deepe)

"Peace for the Vietnamese is a bit big dark-room," one Saigonese explained. "Now, the politicians are beginning to grope around the dark-room and who knows what they'll find."

One informed source explained, "There are debates among politicians and articles in the Vietnamese newspapers about peace that would have been taboo six months ago."

The clear-cut line ~~restriction~~ ^{limitation} as to the limits of this great outburst of free expression is any public or published advocacy of a "coalition" government with the COMMUNIST-LED National Liberation Front. ~~THE GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON~~ That is a betrayal

"betrayer's peace", in the eyes of the Vietnamese government and anyone who publicly states it is going to be brought to trial, as Lawyer Truong Dinh Dzu and student p writers discovered. Also, most politicians are political and governmental personalities are wary of publicly advocating any discussions with the National Liberation Front-- but they can freely urge discussions between North and South Vietnam.

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politics 3 (normass/doepe)

Paradoxically, this groping for peace is evolving at a time when the war has come geographically and sp psychologically closer to Saigon. Psychologically, the sheer fear of another Communist offensive am has clearly gripped the Saigonese and this by far overshadows, but may indirectly contributed to, the climate of peace.

In the broadest sense, South Vietnam is in an awkward, agonizing transition between war and peace. It has all the responsibilities of being poised to repel any future Communist offensive ~~yet~~ in the immediate future yet all the challenges of re-gearing the economy, army, administrative apparatus, and even individual minds; the state of mind towards the unknown of peace. One There is some evidence to suggest this may be true for the Southerners fighting with the Viet Cong as well as those on the non-Communist side. The tiny, tired country has all still must d endure all the agonies of the war but as well as all the uncertainties of the peace.

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politics 4 (normass/deepe)

In this sense a schio- schizo-climate prevaille prevails here at this present juncture.

This new direction of Vietnamese non-Communist political thinking began to take perceptible shape following President Lyndon Johnson's April 1 speech calling for peace and reducing the bombing American bombing of North Vietnam. Since then, it has evolved almost imperceptibly. until the Republican convention Now, it is clear here, that this new direction is irreversible giving given the present trends. The Republican convention in the United States, by delini deliniating rejecting the option of continuing to press for f victory in Vietnam, has meant that only the terms, timing and mechanism and guarantees of the peace are at issue.

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politics 5 (normass/deepe)

Between these two critical dates, ^{5/1/68} April 1 by the two American political parties--the April 1 speech and the Republican convention--the character and tone and direction of Vietnamese body politic underwent a significant evolution. Given the present trends, the Vietnamese evolution can falter or go forward, but the clock can not be turned backwards. In the present context, all the luxury and magic of peace for the Vietnamese people has been let out of the box, they have become magnetized by it and no one--even the Communists--will probably be able to put it the lid. Somehow, peace now seems inevitable; now one knows when or whose peace. back on the box.

The ~~cha~~ new direction of Vietnamese politics does not, however, reflect the great groundswell and yearning of the Vietnamese people for peace. It reflects the great churning pivot within the American political position. In this sense, the Vietnamese government and its affiliated groupings are getting in stride with Paris and Washington, ~~although they are not yet in step with their own people. who want peace now.~~ ^{still far behind the bulk of} who wanted peace long ago.

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