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elect 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, NOVEMBER 5--The mood of this harried capital fluctated sharply with the direct-radio broadcasts funneling in the American Presidential election returns. The feeling here is that many of the ~~future~~ crucial future developments regarding the fate of Vietnam hinged on the outcome of the election--and there were big hopes for a Nixon victory ~~in~~ in ~~both~~ both American and Vietnamese leadership circles.

"PRESIDENT THIEU IS ~~STILL~~ WAITING FOR NIXON TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BEFORE HE IS ~~EMERGENCY~~ ACTS," was the middle-of-the-road, Southern newspaper, banner headline of the "Tieng Noi Dan Toc" (~~voice of t~~ Voice of the People Nation) which seemed to typify the reaction that a Nixon victory would get Vietnam out of the "diplomatic disaster" ~~in~~ it was now muddling thro in which is was now quagnired. ~~It~~

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Most believed that peace would come to Vietnam no matter which candidate w major candidate was elected; "Nixon and Humphrey are same-same", one news Vietnamese newspaper~~edic~~ editorialized. But, many thought that Nixon had a firmer--and clearer--stand position which would get better peace terms ~~tanham~~ for South Vietnam--and one more likely to prevent a coalition government from being ~~so~~ formed here.

One ~~an~~ senior American ^{military officer,} official, speaking ~~prige~~ privately, explained the typical American and pro-government Vietnamese reaction when he said:

"I'm leery of Humphrey," he said. "And I'm leery of those State Department boys he'll bring in. They'll start counting up the number of North Vietnamese battalion now out-side of South Vietnam--nearly 50 of them now--and will say a 'okay let's start pulling out an American division. They won't listen to Abrams when he says 'hey, those NVA battalions aren't very far out of the country and what happens if they come back in."

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Still, the most "terrifying" thought to one American ^{was} is that "the whole election will go into the House and we'll be without a firm leadership during the critical time when we need it most. This would be the worst of all things for our national position."

Some American military were attracted to the Wallace ticket, but ~~rejected~~ that he was "the right man for this time." "Wallace would say 'okay, let's create a coastline for Laos,'" one young G. I. said, meaning that Wallace would bomb Vietnam North Vietnam into the South China Sea.

In short, the mood was that after Vietnam war had affected American politics and the shape of the election for the past three years— and now it was time ^{the time of} for the American election to influence the course of the Vietnam war and the ^{AND THE VIETNAM} kind of peace it would inherit.

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