

2020 sag

yy ljp

johnson 1 (norman/deepe)

SAGO

SAIGON, April 1 --President Lyndon Joy Johnson's radio broadcast stating his refusal to accept re-nomination for a second term created an atomic-sized political shock wave through the hawkish ex American ~~community~~ and Vietnamese anti-Communist communities here.

This this war zone, this d announced decision far out-impacted his statement of a de-escalation of the ~~bombing~~ American bombing raids over North Vietnam in the hopes of establishing peace talks ~~the provobation~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~would~~ ~~accept~~ ~~the~~ ~~offer~~ ~~immediately.~~

~~of the half-million-man American troop effort here could easily be ~~in the~~~~
of the half-million-man American ~~troop~~ ~~effort~~ here could easily be ~~in the~~
Bobby Kennedy, who has vigorously opposed the American ~~mi~~ military effort here
"The President has stolen all of (Eugene) McCarthy's arguments, but this will help Bobby Kennedy get the nomn nomination while making him look like a fool," one American officer explained.

--more reuter

yy ljp

johnson 2 (normass/deepe)

~~From~~ the American Ambassador and General Westmoreland, down to lowly fighting privates, had tuned in their radios to the U. S. military station here to hear the mid-morning address.

"Incredible—Fantastic!", one American officer exclaimed *as* the President announced his decision "not to seek or accept" re-nomination. "This is an entirely new ballgame—it means that (Bobby) ~~Kenny~~ Kennedy can has a good chance to win."

Some of the American GI's had taped the President's address to re-play for their buddies who had missed it. They re-played the last portion of his speech, *to MAKE SURE they heard it correctly.*

"I thought the President said he wouldn't run un- 'unless'— but he didn't. He left no way out. But, there always must be an unless." *one officer explained.*

==more reuter

2020 sag

yy ljp

Johnson 3 (normass/deepe)

Another military hawk, after overcoming his initial shock, exclaimed, "The only thing left is ~~awr~~ ^a write-in—and I'm going to write-in Harry Truman."

Speculation in American circles, including among senior officers, immediately began ~~to wonder if~~ ^{whether} somehow at a later time the President would change his mind and accept a draft—or whether he would back Vice President Hubert Humphrey—or in what way he could guarantee ax his policy not to fall into the hands of Bobby Kennedy, who is regarded here as a sel "sell-out dove."

To the astonishment of her male office superiors, one American secretary, a Catholic, ~~==more reuter==~~ burst into tears when she heard the transistor radio say the President would not run again. "It was sorry for that poor man for having to govern us goffy goofy Americans," she explained. "And it was anger at Bobby Kennedy. If Bobby hadn't split the party, the President wouldn't have backed out."

In the dinn dining hall of the "colonel's messes", the dining halls of senior officers, many speculated "the old man must be sick and under doctor's orders not to run again." Few seemed to believe the Vice President Humphrey could seize the nomination from Bobby Kennedy.

==more reuter

2020 sag

yy ljp

johnson 4 (normass/deepe)

"This is beyond belief, or comprehension," one American officer explained. "The President has adopted the policy of Kennedy-- and yet in doing so has undercut Bobby on the one hand but increased his chances for getting elected on the other."

Even the highest ranking ~~Amci~~ American officials here had not been informed about the President's decision not to seek a second term. ~~After~~ The first order of business of the regularly scheduled mee U. S. Mission Council was to listen to the President's address. In the third floor conference room of the recently rocketed American Embassy, American Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, General William C. Westmoreland, heads of the economic, public information ga agencies, the CIA and seven other senior officers were informed via radio of the President's decision. "The Ambassador had no vocal reaction," a mission spokesman said.

= -more reuter

zozc sag

yy ljp

johnson 5 (normass/deepe)

Sanior American officials and commanders here had received however a rundown ~~z~~ on the de-escalation of the bombing over North Vietnam, and had in turn "consulted, rather than informed" the highest ranking members of the South Vietnamese government.

The ~~Pr~~ upper-class, educated Vietnamese, ~~inc~~ including officers, senators, government officials and businessmen were also astonished by the ~~decisio~~ President's announcement statement he would not seek re-election, but they were far more ~~o~~ skeptical about it than the American community.

--more reuter

yy ljp y

johnson 6 (normass/deepe)

"Remember, this is ~~is~~ April Fool's Day in Vietnam," one Vietnamese official, speaking privately explained. "How can we Vietnamese believe what President Johnson has said. He can change his mind. He is very ~~is~~ tricky. What he says today, he can forget tomorrow."

A Vietnamese politician explained: "Look, we can never trust American politicians. An example is Kennedy---he said he wasn't going to run and then he decided to run. Who can believe them?"

Clearly, the Vietnamese were inclined to judge the American political scene in terms of their own cynicism and skepticism of Vietnamese politics. But, some were rather moderately calm and optimistic.

"Maybe the President decided to de-escalate the bombing just to win votes or something," one Vietnamese explained. "But the Americans can never abandon Vietnam, because they have half-million troops and a ~~bunk~~ bundle of pre most of the prestige wrapped up here."

2020 sag

yy ljp

johnson 7 (normass/deepe)

One retired Vietnamese general explained: "Johnson is one of the trickiest of American Presidents. He is the typical American--and represents American thinking. They talk big, they talk of power, they are tery t very tricky--and Johnson comes from Texas Texas."

Another Vietnamese added to his commentary: "Yes, but only the innocent Vietnamese can be fooled by tricky people. The Vietnamese constitution promulgated a year ago d today--on April Fool's Day too, and so no one could take it very seriously either. But, remember the Communists are very tricky too."

--more reuter

ZCZC sag

JY ljp

Johnson 8 (normass/deepe)

Officially, the Vietnamese government has made no ~~comment~~ immediate comment on the President's decision not to run; Vietnamese newspapers were published too late to run stories or editorials about the President's speech.

However, the Vietnamese government to the ~~halt~~ reduction of bombing over North Vietnam—and American hopes for peace talks—brought a strong and adverse reaction. The Vietnamese government had been informed prior to the President's speech about the first portions related to des deescalation of the bombing. Sunday, addressing 14,000 students who had just finished their two weeks militia training, Th President Nguyen Van Thieu called on the Vietnamese to make more sacrifices and to ~~go on with the fighting~~ continue fighting, even if the Americans make a peace settlement.

"Nobody can force us to accept this coalition (with the Communists) and nobody can force us to accept Communist slavery," Thieu said.

He told the students: "I can not and will never accept coalition with the Communists."

Despite the a initial adamacy of the Thieu government, the reaction of one Vietnamese intellectual seemed typical: "This is the beginning—of what we don't know yet. Certainly it is the bi beginning of worse to come—more b fighting won the battlefield and probably demonstrations in the streets."

- END P. X