

The Secret Search for Peace in Vietnam - ^{DAVID} Kroslow and Stuart Leary
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P. 91 -- In 1964 -- as a former White House aide later de-
scribed the mood of that period: "The very word negotiations
was anathema in the admin.

P. 96 " In November, 1963 in the aftermath of the Diem downfall,
he [U Thant] suggested to the U.S. the establishment of a
coalition govern. in Saigon which would take in all the
anti-Diem nationalists, including those who had been
exiled. The plan floundered because the U.S. was not inter-
ested in such a coalition and because the exiles would not
return. But that apparently lost no standing in making
the suggestion. "

The plan floundered because Pres. Kennedy was convinced
not because of an alleged lack of interest in a coalition gov.
in Saigon. What the hell had the big argument been, between
Diem & Kennedy, if ~~it~~ not Diem's refusal to take into the
Government opposing parties so as to give it some semblance
of popular control and some claim of legitimacy before the
world's people. Kennedy repeated till he was blue in the
face that some sort of popular representative gov. had to
evolve in Saigon if it was to ~~win~~ ^{gain} the support of the
Country's people in the fight against Communism. #

I think Kennedy suspected as early as 1961 that no
government in Saigon could elicit that much support
from the country side to defeat the guerrillas. But a gov.
of many factions, liberal & conservative as well as a few
on the left and very few real communists would not be found
from Washington