

A Small Favor

By Art Buchwald *Part 11/17*

If Richard Nixon wins the election next week, most of the credit will go to Lu Doc Toy who heads the "Communists For Nixon" Committee in Hanoi.

Lu Doc Toy who, until this election, always voted the straight Communist party ticket, decided to support Nixon this year because he said, "I'm sick and tired of having my kids bussed along the Ho Chi Minh Trail."

Having made the decision, Lu Doc Toy contacted the Committee for the Re-election of the President in Washington which sent one of their top CIA men to Hanoi to help him in the campaign.

Lu Doc Toy told the CIA man, "I need bumper stickers, buttons, posters and a secret fund to get the Communists For Nixon off the ground."

The CIA man said, "We've written off North Vietnam as far as electoral votes go, but you could help us tremendously in getting the President re-elected with a small favor."

"What can I do? Lu Doc asked.

"Arrange a peace treaty with the U.S. a week before the elections."

"It's done," Lu Doc Toy said. "My cousin is a member of the Politburo and he owes me a favor."

Lu Doc Toy went to see his cousin Ton Son Not in his bomb shelter the next day. During a 15-minute break in the bombing he said, "Ton Son Not, as you know I am head of the Communists For Nixon and I have a small favor to ask of you."

"You have dishonored your ancestors, Lu Doc Toy," Ton Son Not said. "How can you support a man whose party would bug the Watergate?"

"It was a prank," Lu Doc Toy said. "Everyone does it during an election year. Besides Nixon knew nothing about it."

"That's what all the Communists For Nixon say. But we know differently. Besides, how could you work for a man who said he would stop the war in 1968?"

"Exactly," Lu Doc Toy said. "That's what I came to speak to you about. Nixon wants to stop the war again, only this time *before* the election."

"It's a trick," Ton Son Not said. "What does he want in exchange for it?"

"Nothing we wouldn't have given him in 1968. It's the same deal that was offered to him then."

"But why now? I thought the U.S. bombing was working."

"Who knows what goes on with those cockamamie Americans? But I'm giving it to you straight. If you people say okay Nixon will send what's-his-name to Paris to sign the deal."

"Wait a minue," Ton Son Not said, "If we agree to a peace settlement, that means we'll have four more years of Nixon."

"Look, Ton Son Not, Lu Doc Toy said, "We hold the key to the American presidential election in our hands. We have to decide whether we want Nixon for President and a generation of peace, or whether we want the misguided, badly thought out, socialistic programs of George McGovern."

The bombing started again. "WHAT ABOUT THIEU? WILL HE GO ALONG WITH IT?" Ton Son Not yelled.

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIEU," Lu Doc Toy yelled back. "HE'LL DO ANYTHING NIXON ASKS HIM TO!"