

# REAGAN SAYS U.S. DESERTED ITS ALLY

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Tells V.F.W. the Government Did Not Let Its Troops Win  
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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 18 (UPI)—The Federal Government "gave up" in Vietnam, undercutting its own fighting men and abandoning an ally, Ronald Reagan told the convention today.

Mr. Reagan, a possible opponent of President Ford for the Republican Presidential nomination, was frequently interrupted by applause in his speech to 40,000 V.F.W. members. The former Governor of California called the withdrawal from Vietnam more shameful "than any single event in our nation's history."

United States troops did not lose the war, they just were not allowed to win it, he said, when the Government "walked away—not only from a war but from an ally."

The main speech of the convention was to be delivered tonight by Gov. George Wallace of Alabama. It was the first V.F.W. convention in several years that was not addressed by either the President or Vice President.

Mr. Reagan said that the United States should make it clear to the world that "never again shall we ask young men to fight and die for their country unless the goal is complete victory." He accused Congress of not putting enough pressure on the Administration to get an accounting from North Vietnam and South Vietnam of United

States military men still listed as missing in action.

Congress is more interested in investigating United States intelligence agencies than in trying to find out what happened to the missing men, said Mr. Reagan.

Charging that the Administration was not taking a strong enough stand against Communist countries or small nations, Mr. Reagan assailed negotiations to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama. "That nation exists only because of us," he said.

"And why should America any longer tolerate the seizure by Ecuador of American fishing boats nearly 200 miles off their [Ecuador's] coast?" he asked.

Mr. Reagan was awarded the V.F.W.'s Gold Citizenship medal. He and Mr. Wallace, a Democrat, are leaders of the right wings of their parties. Both have made moves toward Presidential bids though neither is a declared candidate. There have been suggestions that they would bolt their parties to form a third, more conservative party.

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 18 (AP)

—Mr. Wallace said today that he would support legislation to reopen the investigation of the 1972 assassination attempt against his life.

In an interview before his V.F.W. address, Mr. Wallace endorsed legislation introduced by Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, that would reopen the investigation.

In the past, Mr. Wallace has said he is not satisfied that Arthur Bremer, convicted of the 1972 shooting that left him paralyzed from the waist down, acted alone.