

President Nixon held an impromptu press conference in Washington today. ... He ... said that he had hoped the forthcoming presidential elections in South Vietnam could have included more than one candidate, but he said that the form of government in South Vietnam is preferable to the form of government in North Vietnam.

He said that cutting off aid to South Vietnam because of the inequities in the election could not be considered, and he added that if the United States government gave aid only to countries with leaders elected in truly democratic elections, two-thirds of the countries presently receiving such help would automatically be ruled ineligible.