

The War President

by Anthony Lewis

Miami Beach, Aug. 20 -- The man who will shortly be renominated for President has done many significant things in his first term of office. But in a way his most remarkable achievement has been in the Vietnam war: He has taken a national mistake and made it an obsession.

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To the world, Richard Nixon has proved that the United States' use of her destructive power against the poorest and weakest of countries is not an accident or a passing phenomenon. The historic notion that American wars have a dominant moral element divorced from militarism is now finished. And that again is a considerable achievement in one term as President.