

'Repressive Acts'

Senate Blisters Thieu Policies

Washington

The Senate yesterday adopted a condemnation of what it called repressive acts of the regime of President Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam.

In adopting an amendment by Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III (Dem-Ill.), the Senate demanded that the United States quit supporting or appearing to support attempts by the South Vietnamese government "to discourage legitimate opposition by abridging the right to vote, freedom of the press, or other individual liberties."

VOTE

The amendment to the \$1.5 billion foreign military aid bill was adopted by voice vote with only four Democratic senators and no Republicans on the floor.

It would require the President to "use all available leverage, including the withholding of assistance authorized by this act," to implement the policy of non-support Thieu regime actions.

It would require the President to report to Congress next January 1 and semi-annually thereafter on what action he has taken as long as the United States supplies military aid to South Vietnam.

Stevenson told the Senate that Thieu has abolished hamlet elections, invoked news censorship and has political opponents arrested

and tortured "in a ruthless systematic campaign to destroy or silence opposition" and set up a military dictatorship.

"The Thieu regime is corrupt and tyrannical," Stevenson said. "It rules by force because it cannot by popularity."

"Yet, the Nixon administration insists upon propping up this dictatorship."

AID

Moving toward a final vote today on the level of U.S. foreign military aid and a rider to cut off funds for U.S. military operations in Indochina in four months, the Senate adopted another amendment to crack down on drug smuggling from Southeast Asia.

By voice vote, the Senate accepted an amendment by Senator Vance Hartke (Dem-Ind.), to require the President to cut off foreign aid to Thailand, Laos, Burma, Cambodia and South Vietnam unless he finds those governments cooperative in efforts to curb illicit traffic in opium and heroin.

Shortly after the Senate votes, the White House announced that President Nixon had signed an executive order permitting him to suspend economic and military aid to countries failing to cooperate with efforts to curb illicit drug traffic. Mr. Nixon said last week that he would not hesitate to take such actions where necessary.

Associated Press