

NY-TIMES

## NO SECOND TERM, THIEU INDICATES

He Says Presidency Takes  
'So Much Out of One'

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 3 (UPI)—President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam indicated tonight for the first time that he might not seek a second term in elections scheduled for September, 1971.

"This job takes so much out of one," Mr. Thieu told newsmen at a reception in South Vietnam's National Assembly. "I have been looking for someone else to do it."

The remark was the only comment Mr. Thieu made on the election in the brief meeting, but it was considered significant because of two recent developments.

Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, known as "Big Minh," one of the most popular figures in South Vietnam, hinted in a statement Sunday that he might challenge Mr. Thieu in the 1971 presidential elections. Yesterday when asked in Paris if the Vietnamese Communists would negotiate with general Minh.

### Vietcong Reply

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong spokesman, replied that they would "enter into contact with anybody with the exceptio nōf Thieu, Kliem, Ky"—the President, the Premier and the Vice President.

The Vietcong and North Vietnamese delegations at the peace talks in Paris have long demanded the ouster of the three as a prerequisite to settling the conflict.

Mr. Thieu's statement marked the first time since his election in 1967 that he had even hinted at retiring after a single four-year term. Political groups in Saigon had taken his candidacy for granted.

A continuing rumor in Saigon, despite denials from the United States Embassy, is that Washington is pulling its support away from Mr. Thieu during next year's elections in order to help General Minh.