

Demos Say Hands Off Viet Election

Washington

Senate Democrats yesterday called on the administration to stay out of this year's elections in South Vietnam and prove U.S. dedication to self-determination.

"We have preached self-determination at least since the time of Woodrow Wilson," said majority leader Mike Mansfield.

"I think it is time to put that principle into effect and not just talk about it," he declared in a floor speech in which he called the war a "corrosive cancer on the body politic of America."

STEVENSON

Introducing a resolution designed to guarantee U.S. neutrality, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III (Dem-Ill.) accused the administration of actively working for re-election of resident Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky.

The two leaders are up for re-election in October following legislative elections in August.

Stevenson said the U.S. Information Agency in South Vietnam has been promoting the Thieu-Ky regime.

BUNKER

He also said U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker was quoted in the South Vietnamese press last fall as saying the United States supports re-election of Thieu and Ky.

Although Bunker later denied such a statement, Stevenson said the damage was done.

In a floor speech and at a news conference later, Stevenson accused the administration of seeking to continue the Vietnam conflict as "a proxy war among Asians."

COMMISSION

Stevenson's resolution would establish a commission of five House members and five senators to oversee U.S. activities during the election campaign to assure a hand-off policy.

"The intent of this resolution is not to defeat Thieu and Ky, but to neutralize the political advantage which our military involvement affords them," Stevenson said.

In another resolution introduced yesterday, Senator Jack Miller (Rep-Iowa), called for complete withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam within 12 months following an exchange of POWs and an accounting for men missing in action.

In another development, Senator William Proxmire (Dem-Wis.), suggested that massive U.S. bombing in Southeast Asia had cost as much as \$20 billion, but had done little more than cause inconvenience to the Communists.

Proxmire proposed a resolution.

Proxmire proposed resolution calling on President Nixon to set up an impartial commission to study the "true costs and effectiveness" of the bombing.

A.P. & U.P.