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## 2 Saigon Senators Say Minh Can Win

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WASHINGTON, April 5 —

Two South Vietnamese opposition senators predicted today that Gen. Duong Van Minh could win next October's presidential elections if the voting was free and honest.

Senators Tran Quang Thuan and Ton That Niem, members of the South Vietnamese Senate's electoral commission, agreed in an interview here that if General Minh became a presidential candidate, he would probably defeat President Nguyen Van Thieu in his expected bid for re-election.

General Minh was a leader of the army junta that ousted President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. He served as chief of state until his fellow generals exiled him in 1964. He returned to Saigon in October, 1968, and last November broke his political silence to imply that he would challenge President Thieu for re-election.

Although he has not entered

the race officially, the 53-year-old general is widely regarded as South Vietnam's most popular politician.

The two opposition senators have spent the last 10 days in Washington meeting with members of Congress, Administration officials and newsmen in an effort to obtain United States support for free elections in South Vietnam. They will go to New York tomorrow hoping to confer with Secretary General Thant at the United Nations.

Senator Thuan, who served as South Vietnam Social Welfare Minister and was among the leaders of the 1966 Buddhist rebellion, spent two years in prison before his release in 1968.

The senators would not predict whether or when General Minh, known as "Big Minh," would proclaim his candidacy. But they appeared to assume that he would do so. Asked whether General Minh could win, Senator Thuan, speaking in

French, said: "Yes, if we have free and honest elections."

Both portrayed the South Vietnamese as war-weary but insisted that the country would oppose a communist takeover, either politically or by force.

They took the view that General Minh, or a candidate of similar standing, could form a "non-Communist" government. Under questioning, they agreed that such a freely elected regime might eventually be in a position to negotiate an end to the war.

### Resolution by Stevenson

In the United States Senate, Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, introduced a resolution calling upon President Nixon to "implement a policy of strict neutrality" in the South Vietnamese elections.

The Illinois Democrat's resolution also provided for the creation of a commission consisting of five Senators and five Representatives and a special staff to oversee "the activities of the United States,

its citizens and its Government, during the campaign, in a continuing effort to assure the people of South Vietnam that we as a nation are truly committed to their rights as a free, selfgoverning people."