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U.S. AIDES ACCUSED ON VIETNAM VOTE

House Unit Hears 2 Charge Bids to Influence Election

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WASHINGTON, July 21 —Congressional investigators heard testimony today that United States officials in Saigon were seeking to influence next October's national election in favor of President Nguyen Van Thieu and that the balloting would be a "mockery" of the democratic process.

Two former employes of the Agency for International Development told a House Government Operations subcommittee that they had resigned because they believed United States personnel and facilities were being used improperly.

The witnesses, Theodore R. Jacqueney and Richard S. Winslow Jr., identified the Central Intelligence Agency, the United States Information Agency and the American-financed Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (COROS) program as the sources of funds, equipment and personnel that were contributing to the election effort.

The men denounced United States financing of the South Vietnamese police, intelligence and prison systems, which they said were being used by the Saigon Government to silence its political opposition and non-Communist advocates of peace and neutrality.

'More Feared, More Hated'

Mr. Jacqueney, who said he recently completed an 18-month agency tour at Danang, told the panel that "no single entity, including the feared and hated Vietcong, is more feared or more hated than the South Vietnam secret police."

The men testified under oath, charging widespread corruption among high Vietnamese military and civilian officials "in all ministries." Mr. Jacqueney also said that political persecution resulted in an estimated 20,000 to 100,000 political prisoners.

Mr. Jacqueney told an A.I.D. contract costing 400,000 to build 288 new isolation cells at the prison on Con Son, which received wide publicity for its "tiger cages" a year ago. The witness said:

"Political prisoners are now being transferred from prisons on the mainland to Con Son island, apparently to make them less accessible during the election campaign. "In every province in Vietnam there is a province interrogation center with a reputation for using torture to interrogate people accused of Vietcong affiliations. They have a C.I.A. counterpart relationship, and in some case have a relationship with the A.I.D. police adviser."

Describes Alleged Torture

Mr. Jacqueney said that an old man—a friend of his had been accused of Vietcong connections and had wanted to confess to avoid torture, "but was tortured horribly anyway, simply because it was standard operating procedure to torture prisoners."

He said that two American officials had told him that the old man had been given the "rock-and-roll" treatment in "large quantities of rice and water were forced down a prisoner's throat and then a smooth stone is rubbed over his belly producing days of intense pain and continual vomiting."

Before the two witnesses took the stand, John E. Reinhardt, assistant director of United States Information Agency, was cross-examined by the subcommittee chairman, William S. Moorhead of Pennsylvania, and by Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California.