

# BUNKER URGES KY TO STAY IN RACE

Some Political and Religious  
Leaders Are Said to View  
a Campaign as Foolish

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By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Monday, Aug. 23—Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker met with Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky late yesterday to try to persuade him to campaign in South Vietnam's presidential election. Mr. Ky had said at a morning news conference that he was still hesitating.

The American Ambassador spent about 50 minutes at the Vice President's villa at Tansonnhut Airport. Afterward, Mr. Ky's aides said that he had not given Mr. Bunker a definitive answer.

If Vice President Ky decides not to campaign, President Nguyen Van Thieu will be effectively unopposed Oct. 3, although Mr. Ky's name would still appear on the ballot. His name was put back on the ballot by the Supreme Court Saturday.

## More Night-Long Meetings

Another nightlong round of meetings was under way in the Tansonnhut villa last night, according to one of Mr. Ky's campaign aides.

He said that Mr. Ky was expected to announce that he would not participate in the elections because politicians and religious leaders from whom he sought advice had told him he would be foolish to do so. But they said he had reached no firm conclusions.

The principal opposition contender, Gen. Duong Van Minh,

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withdrew Friday morning because of his belief that the elections would be a "farce."

After that, Mr. Bunker met with Mr. Thieu, and later with Mr. Ky, whom he told, according to the Vice President's campaign aide, that the Supreme Court was reconsidering its decision.

At 5 P.M. Saturday, the nine Supreme Court justices handed down a decision reversing their earlier one of Aug. 5 that the Vice President had not collected the number of endorsements for his candidacy required by a Thieu-backed electoral law, passed by the National Assembly in June.

The switch was made, according to one of the judges, because "it was better to have two candidates rather than one."

A spirited struggle to influence Mr. Ky, between those advisers who wanted him to stay in the race now that he had the unexpected chance and those who wanted him to pull out to disgrace President Thieu before Vietnamese public opinion, was reportedly under way Saturday night and Sunday.

The argument do not