

# Thieu Political Foe Beaten by Police

Compiled from AP and UPI

SAIGON — An antigovernment candidate for the National Assembly was beaten and arrested by police today during a protest demonstration as South Vietnam's political crisis neared the end of its first week.

Tran Tuan Nham, a self-described leftist who opposes both President Nguyen Van Thieu and the U.S. presence in Vietnam, appeared in Saigon's main square with a handful of student supporters to display a copy of his campaign poster which police confiscated early last week. It depicted President Nixon with fangs, a Hitler mustache and a large "X" across the face. It also carried the slogans "Work for World Peace," and "Oppose the U.S., Save Our Country."

Uniformed and plainclothes police broke up the demonstration, touching off a brief melee as they pursued Nham and his associates through the area.

The police wrestled Nham to the ground and beat him. He lay in a muddy gutter for a few minutes, then was carried to a police jeep and taken

away. His injuries did not appear serious.

At a news conference earlier, Nham accused U.S. military police and "Thieu's police" of ripping down his posters and threatened to burn himself in a protest against Thieu's regime.

The lower house elections

See Back Page, Col. 4

Continued from Page 1

are Sunday. Nham has been arrested twice previously in the last two weeks for unauthorized political demonstrations.

Meanwhile, a usually well informed Western source suggested that despite evidence to the contrary, President Thieu may not have made his final decision on whether to hold the Oct. 3 presidential election with himself as the only candidate.

The source said the fact that Thieu has yet to make a public declaration of his intention leaves open the possibility that he will call off the election.

U.S. Embassy sources said Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, in his second meeting of the day with Thieu yesterday, outlined the U.S. government's objections to the one-man ballot in "very strong" terms and emphasized "the consequences of an unopposed candidacy."

There was no further information on Bunker's 30-minute conversation with Thieu, but U.S. officials have said privately that the Nixon administration might reduce aid to South Vietnam if Thieu runs unopposed.

Supreme Court officials said Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky is trying to get his name removed from the ballot. Ky withdrew from the race last week but his name is still on the ballot through a technicality. The vice president was reported to be concerned that if his name stays on the ballot Thieu can argue he actually has some competition.

Court officials said the deadline for removing candidates names from the ballot was last Tuesday but Ky's aides argued that the vice president made known his intention Monday.