

Militia Attacked McGovern Meeting

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By IVER PETERSON
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 15—The Saigon police chief said today that Government militiamen had attacked an antiwar meeting attended by Senator George McGovern here last night. He charged that the Senator had unwittingly been meeting with Vietcong agents before the militiamen broke up the gathering with gunfire and firebombs.

The South Dakota Democrat who is his party's only announced candidate for the presidential nomination, called the police chief's words "an outrageous and completely untruthful statement of what happened last night," and demanded an apology from South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu, when they met.

Senator McGovern is in Vietnam on a three-day tour that ends tomorrow. Last night, while he was attending a meeting on prison reform with student and religious leaders who oppose President Thieu and the war, a mob broke into the yard of the church building where the meeting was being held and burned a bus and several motorbikes. The Senator and his staff were rescued by American military policemen. No one was hurt.

Appearing unannounced at the allied command's daily brief-

ing today, the Chief of Police, Tran Si Tan, said some of the students present last night were free on bail under charge of belonging to "the Saigon city Vietcong youth and student proselytizing group."

"I do not think Senator McGovern was aware that they were Vietcong cadre—vietcong agents," Mr. Tan said.

He declared that the meeting was illegal because permission had not been obtained from local authorities and because the priests in charge of the church had not approved

the use of a schoolroom in the church for the meeting.

Some of the students at the meeting, Mr. Tan said, were also "members of a so-called student assault group who have been engaged in burning U.S. vehicles during the last few days."