

Saigon's Senate Bids Thieu Delay Voting for President

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By ALVIN SHUSTER SEP 23 1971

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SAIGON, Sept. 22 — The South Vietnamese Senate today called on President Nguyen Van Thieu to postpone the Oct. 3 elections because his one-man presidential candidacy would lead to "disaster" for the country.

The resolution, which is not binding on the President, was backed by some of his former supporters and reflected the growing opposition to his decision to go ahead with the voting despite the absence of opponents.

It was regarded by diplomats and other observers here as the most serious rebuke to the President since his decision to proceed with the elections.

Continued on Page 14, Column 3

Acting at a special session attended by 31 of the 59 members, the Senate said that the prospect of an uncontested election aggravated internal dissension, threatened the survival of the country and ignored the will of the people.

It concluded that the President should organize new elections "in accordance with democratic procedures."

Twenty-eight Senators voted for it and three abstained after three hours of debate during which not one Senator defended President Thieu's decision. The speakers not only denounced the one-man election but also had some harsh words for President Nixon.

Continued on Page 13, Column 1

SAIGON'S SENATE ASKS VOTE DELAY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

"President Nixon can support President Thieu, but President Nixon cannot force the Vietnamese people to support President Thieu," said Senator Huynh Van Cao, until recently a strong supporter of Mr. Thieu. He announced he was withdrawing his support of Mr. Thieu in the election.

"It is unacceptable for us

that each time there is an election, there is chaos," Senator Cao said. "It is unacceptable that at the end of each presidential term one ex-president has to leave the country to live abroad or go and rest in the Macdinhchi Cemetery. The Oct. 3 election is constitutional but running alone is an undemocratic act."

Senator Nguyen Van Chuc, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who has been taking an anti-Government stand since last year, noted President Thieu's pledge to resign if he got less than 50 per cent of the vote.