

## THIEU FOES TAKE A STEP FOR UNITY

Sign a Resolution to Set Up  
Unit Against Dictatorship

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 26—The fragmented opposition to President Nguyen Van Thieu's one-man presidential candidacy, acting after the apparent failure over the week-end of planned mass demonstrations, finally made an open gesture of unity today, a week before the elections.

At a meeting that lasted until midnight, 43 supporters of Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Gen. Duong Van Minh, signed a resolution to form a "People's Coordinating Committee Against Dictatorship" that would decide what they should do next.

Mr. Ky presided over the meeting at his downtown villa, but did not sign the resolution himself. General Minh did not attend. "We keep inviting him and hoping he will join us," one of Mr. Ky's advisers said, "but so far he has not. He may think it is too early yet to commit himself."

### Joint Program Sought

Today there were more meetings at the villa to try to "fix a joint program of action" as the resolution put it.

The return to political action by important opposition figures came during a relatively calm and quiet weekend in which student activists and leaders of disabled veterans failed to stimulate mass demonstrations or violence aimed at getting President Thieu to step down or call off the election.

At a demonstration today about 10 disabled veterans painted some anti-Thieu slogans on the Bienhoa highway just outside Saigon and were dispersed when the police threw tear gas at them.

Mr. Ky, who has threatened to "destroy" President Thieu and has encouraged protests by the disabled veterans and the students, has been confident in the past of achieving results on the streets before the elections. But today, one of his aides who signed the resolution, Le Van Thai, said "yesterday's demonstrations were not aimed at overthrowing Thieu—they were to be the incentive for the opposition to get together. We realize we must do something else, and our biggest weakness in the opposition is internal division."

### Minh's Support Needed

The opposition's resolution seems to go a long way toward narrowing the division, but unless General Minh endorses it, or joins Mr. Ky in a public announcement later this week, its effect is likely to be limited.

Among General Minh's supporters who signed the resolution at yesterday's five-hour meeting was Mrs. Nguyen Phuoc Dai, the legal representative of the general's campaign slate before he pulled out of the election Aug. 20 and accused Mr. Thieu of rigging.

General Minh's official spokesman, Nguyen Huu Chung, also signed, as did an influential opposition deputy, Ly Quy Chung, who supports General Minh, and a monk of the An Quang Buddhist movement, Thich Phap Tri.

The resolution said the Coordinating Committee would "urgently invite all other sections of the population who are against the dictatorial rule of Nguyen Van Thieu to join the committee and at the same time to fix a joint program of action."

"Some people thought it should be called the People's Coordinating Committee Against the Thieu Dictatorship," one of Mr. Ky's supporters said today, "but we believed the name was not necessary."

A force of thousands of armed special police in Saigon to prevent violence spent most of the day sleeping on their wicker riot shields. There was little riot-quelling to do.