## Southerners Now Oppose Military Role in Indochina

By ROY REED.

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GREENVILLE, Miss., April 5 to the piano and back again, to a party here last night to that faraway flame that flickcelebrate the 40th birthday of ers and will not die. Hodding Carter 3d, the editor, Throughout this weekend

singing, flirtation and non- ing the wrenching television sense, and for several hours reports from Southeast Asia. the leaders of Delta society But even though the war has turned away from pressing con- encroached again, it is different cerns of the day, the rising this time. In the South, which Mississippi River, the falling prices of cotton and soybeans, bellicose and military-minded

mentioned Vietnam. A pall fell for any new American military over that quarter of the room, involvement in Indochina. For the rest of the evening people drifted from the pall

-A bunch of Delta people went mothlike, unable still to avoid

politician and world traveler people are once more reading There was champagne and the grim headlines and watchthe uncertain stock markets. part of the nation, there seems Then at a late hour someone to be virtually no sentiment

Except for the strong feeling that the United States should provide humanitarian aid-food, medical supplies, help for refugees-there is also little sentiment for sending more American money into Vietnam.

From Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama to a black grocer at a remote crossroads, resistance to sending more American troops to Vietnam is the same. It was summed up by the grocer, Sam Ballard, who owns a store on the edge of Camden,

Ala.
"If the United States does not have anything over there of

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value," he said, "I don't see that our boys have any right to go back over there and fight

their war."

Nevertheless, the war lingers in the Southern mind. Liberals speak of the guilt they still feel for what their country did in Indochina. Conservatives regret the inconclusive outcome of the American effort—some call it defeat—and worry that United States credibility has been dam-

And across ideological lines, thoughtful Southerners wondering how they should



United Press International President Ford holding a South Vietnamese child in San Francisco Saturday. Southerners did not favor his bid for \$300million more in aid for South Vietnam.

view their nation's role now-in a world that is, once again, confused.

As Mr. Carter put it, standing in the yard after his party was over, "The big question now is, where do we go from here?"

The most recent polls by Gallup and Harris showed that the South, for once, agreed with the rest of the nation.

Early in March, a Harris Poll on President Ford's request for \$300-million more aid for Suth Vietnam found only 17 per cent of all Americans and 16 per cent of Sutherners favoring

A Gallup survey in February showed roughly the same results, 12 per cent nationally and 14 per cent in the South favoring more money for Vietnam and Cambodia.

With that information in hand, a reporter undertook an automobile tour of the deepest of the Deep South, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama-to talk with some of those Americans who once had been the stanchest defenders of the war. How did they feel now that America's allies in Indochina seemed to be caving in to the Communists?

The tour began in Louisiana more than a week ago, after the fall of Hue but before the new onslaught of reports about the suffering of the Vietnamese civilians. A weekend fisherman gave a blunt but not untypical answer as he headed for his boat in the Atchafalaya swamp. "Let 'em go to hell," he

But by last Wednesday, when Governor Wallace was interviewed in Montgomery (just after his Birmingham physicians had once again examined him and pronounced him fit, in case he was thinking of . w' running for President) the news from Southeast Asia had become gloomier. Large numbers of Vietnamese were fleeing ahead of the invaders.

"North Viet advance still un-checked," said the headline in that day's Montgomery Adver-

Mr. Wallace said he might favor sending humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese but "without getting involved militarily."

Sounding as if he hoped this would be a final summation, he added, "The big mistake we made in the first place was getting bogged down in a land war in Asia." The United States, he said, should have won the war by doing whatever was necessary, with conventional weapons, or it should have gotten out.

"But we waited and waited and waited," he said."

"Sure, we should nave bombed Cambodia," he said. "We should have bombed Hanwe should have oi. We should have bombed the docks. And if we were afraid to bomb them because we were going to start another war with somebody else, we should never have been over there in the first place.

"What I'm saying is, this

country has wasted 50,000 lives, hundreds of billions of dollars and the country is wound up being taken over.
And we pulled out and they
[the Communists] didn't keep a single agreement they made. They lied and they cheated like they've always lied and cheated."

That is the lesson, he said: Americans have been shown again that the Communists cannot be trusted.

Across town, in a bright glassed-in porch that was green with his wife's potted plants, Maj. Gen. George B. Pickett Jr. talked of the Vietnam developments. He retired from the Army in 1973 and he now writes a column of military analysis for the Montgomery newspapers. He was a World War II tank officer. He was

vice director of military opera- Secretary of State Kissinger's ment with this country, you're tions for the Joint Chiefs of diplomatic mission to the not going to kick us in the Staff from 1967 to 1969. He Middle East last month to the teeth. And I'd put a raid on is a Southerner wio remembers events i Vietnam. He said the Hanoi as big as the one we the stories of the Union Army's Israelis probably had the imput on there in December, ravages of his people during pression that "we just leave 1972." the Civil War.

Alone among those interviewed, General Pickett advois not hopeless, he said; the cated renewed military action by the United States in Southeast Asia. He did not favor sending more ground troops but he said that new bombing would be justified because

1s not hopeless, he said; the Children from Saigon to United States had begun. P. C. Jenkins sat in his invaders.

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South Vietnam's effort have great power is at stake here, and the war is being discussed damaged United States credibi- which I think it is —I would quite a bit around Camden, and provide the states and provide the states and provide the states are the states and provide the states are the he said.

our friends in the lurch."

Congress to continue financing ty of the United States as a that morning. lity in the eyes of tha world, go back and put some planes he said, and people think the he said.

| go back and put some planes he said, and people think the over Hanoi and let them under-

The next day the military news from Vietnam was even more somber. An airlift of children from Saigon to the

P. C. Jenkins sat in his antebellum house on the edge of but he said that new bombing would be justified because North Vietnam had violated the peace agreement so overtly. The United States military to the President of the United States—assuming the credibility o

He attributed the failure of stand when you make an agree- out of it except to send food

agree with that. He added tha some Vietnamese did not stem they, too, have been touched the thought that was troubled been touched the thought that was the thought the thought that was the thought that was the thought the thought that was the thought that was the thought the thought the thought the thought that was the thought having been there at all.

their farming this spring. The came of the crash of an Ameri-what the truth is.

and maybe guns and ammuni-cotton and soybean markets can plane loaded with childre "Lots of them are saying Mississippi River is threatening United States. are doing poorly and now the bound from Vietnam to tl we ought not send them anyto flood their land for the sething," he said.

Mr. Myel
cond time in three years. Water said it was to late for

to appreciate the Americans' once more by the war. Mr. for the South Vietnames Panters Discuss Problems

"I've heard the boys that have been there," he said. "They say they act like they actually hate the United States and vice ver to get on a refugee plane at better off to go on under the Da Nang.

"I've heard the boys that South Vietnamese soldiers who said fought women and children "Would the Vietnamese by actually hate the United States."

Da Nang.

"I've heard the boys that said fought women and children "Would the Vietnamese by actually hate the United States and vice ver base of the United Myers was aannnnnnnnnn people might not be best fo

actually hate the United States. And here we were over there dying and fighting for them."

Yesterday, in the Mississippi Delta, James Mabus and Harper Rivers Xyers said they had more problems than usual with the more problems than usual with their farming this spring. The came of the crash of an Ameri-

thing," he said.

As for Vietnamese claims of American betrayal, Mr. Jenkins, a soft-spoken and amiable man of 74 years, said he did not agree with that He added that the songy to plow and plant.

As for Vietnamese claims of American two late for more said it was too late for more than 40 per cent but that they supposed the songy to plow and plant. plies and perhaps guns.