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**Vietnamese Plan
For Joint Election
As a Step to Unity**

By Reuters

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 21—North and South Vietnam announced plans today for joint elections in the first half of next year to choose a National Assembly for a reunified country.

The announcement came in a communiqué issued at the end of week-long talks here on reunifying Vietnam, which was divided in 1954 after the French Indochina war.

The communiqué said the assembly would draft a new constitution for the reunified country, but it gave no date for the formal reunification.

Nor was the precise election date given. However, there have been reports that the balloting might be held on April 30, the first anniversary of the Communist take-over of South Vietnam.

In the early days of Communist rule here, officials said that reunification might take five years. Even as late as last summer, the two Vietnams had applied for separate membership in the United Nations,

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

**Vietnamese Plan Joint Election
As Step Toward Reunification**

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

but their applications were vetoed by the United States in retaliation for the exclusion of South Korea from the world organization.

Ever since last April, however, preparations for reunification appeared to be under way, and today Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Liberation Front, said in a broadcast, "We will formally unify the country very soon."

Nguyen Thi Binh, the Foreign Minister of South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government, said at a news conference that if the United States contributed to what Mrs. Binh described as the healing of war wounds that American forces had caused, the conditions for establishing normal relations with Washington "will be very favorable."

The reunification talks began here last Saturday with North and South Vietnam represented by 25-member delegations each. Reports during the week said that the head of the North Vietnamese delegation made various proposals and that these were approved by the

South Vietnamese representatives.

Among them, it was said, was a decision to make the minimum voting age 18. Candidates, however, must be at least 21 years old.

A senior official here said today that officers and civil servants of the overthrown, anti-Communist Government would have full voting rights in the general election and would also be eligible as candidates as soon as they had completed their re-education courses. Such courses have been held regularly since April for the soldiers and officials of the old Government.

Among the formal decisions reportedly to be made by the prospective National Assembly is the choice of a capital for the reunified country. The choice is generally expected to be Hanoi.

The final communiqué of the Saigon conference was signed by Truong Chinh, chairman of the North Vietnamese National Assembly, and Pham Hung, a senior member of the Politburo of the Workers Party of South Vietnam, as delegation members toasted one another in French champagne.

Business
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