

U.N. COUNCIL DELAYS DECISION ON VIETNAM UNTIL U.S. ELECTION

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French Proposal to Wait Follows
a Reported Move by Kissinger—
Hanoi Accepts Postponement
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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 14—
The Security Council decided today to
put off consideration of reunified Viet-
nam's request for United Nations mem-
bership until November, or in effect until
after the United States Presidential
election.

The decision followed negotiations ini-
tiated by Secretary of State Henry A.
Kissinger with the French President,
Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, whereupon
France obtained Vietnam's agreement.

The postponement spares the Ford Ad-
ministration from antagonizing Vietnam's
many supporters among foreign govern-
ments by using the big-power veto to
block Vietnam.

U.S. Announces Veto Plan

Yesterday it was announced that the
United States was ready to veto Vietnam
because there was "no progress" in get-
ting a full accounting of American service-
ment missing since the Vietnam war.

At the same time postponement re-
moves a potentially sensitive issue from
the Presidential election campaign.

It was not immediately clear why Viet-
nam had agreed so readily to the post-
ponement. Nor was there any indication
here that the American opposition to
Vietnam's admission would change after
the election of Nov. 2.

The behind-the-scenes negotiations
leading to the council action were re-
ported by diplomatic sources here and
by a French Foreign Ministry official in
Paris. A high State Department official
in Washington, who refused to be identi-
fied, denied that Mr. Kissinger or the
department had been involved.

France proposed the postponement un-
der what a French Foreign Ministry offi-
cial in Paris described as an "informal
agreement" between Mr. Kissinger and
President Giscard d'Estaing. The official
said Mr. Kissinger had raised the issue
at a breakfast meeting with Mr. Giscard

d'Estaing a week ago.

The surprise decision was announced
in a short statement by the Council presi-
dent, Mansur Rashid Kikha of Libya, after
private consultations by the 15 Council
members.

U.S. Cites Delay on Missing Men

Mr. Kikha said that at the initiative
of the French delegation, it had been
decided to postpone the question until
a date in November in order that the
General Assembly might discuss it at its
coming session and that the Vietnamese
had consented.

The Assembly begins its 31st session
on Sept. 21 but the intention clearly was
to put off the matter until Nov. 2, when
it would no longer have a bearing on
the United States election.

William W. Scranton, the chief United
States delegate, after a meeting with
President Ford in Washington yesterday,
announced that he had been instructed
to veto the Vietnamese application be-
cause there had been no progress in get-
ting Hanoi to give a full accounting of
the almost 800 American servicemen miss-

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ing since the Vietnamese war.

Vietnamese authorities denounced the
move in statements charging that Presi-
dent Ford's real concern was nit the
missing Americans and their families but
the "vote in his election."

Applicants must be recommended for
admission by a nine-vote majority of the
Council but a membership request can be
blocked by the negative vote of any of
the five permanent members—Britain,
France, China, the Soviet Union or the
United States.

The United States last year used its
veto to bar Hanoi, which was approved
by the 14 other members, giving as its
reason the Council's refusal to even con-
sider the long-pending application for
entry by South Korea.

While there was no intimation from
United States officials whether there
would be a change in the United States
attitude after Nov. 2, it was suggested
that Hanoi's prospects would be im-
proved if further information was provid-
ed on the missing Americans.

On Sept. 5 Hanoi provided the United
States with the names of 12 airmen who
were listed as missing but who the Viet-
namese said now were killed. The Viet-
namese termed this a goodwill gesture
but the Americans responded by saying
that it was not good enough in light of
the hundreds of others still listed missing.
The office of the Vietnamese observer
here said that it had acquiesced with
France's suggestion about postponing the
membership issue to show once again its
goodwill.

Hanoi's willingness not to press the
membership question at this time was
seen by some here as providing it with
an opportunity to demonstrate a reason-
able and cooperative policy.

By contrast, the United States' threat
of a veto, while popular with some Amer-
ican voters, was seen by a number of
delegates as a foreign policy blunder
certain to be exploited by critics of the
United States.