

THE POLITICS OF DEATH

by Anthony Lewis

London, March 7 - The only thing that a delayed and indefinite withdrawal [from Vietnam] can gain is time. And there we come to the real reason for the Nixon policy. Its aim must be to hold the Saigon Government together at least until the American Presidential election next year. Mr. Nixon wants to be the candidate who withdrew most of our forces without "losing South Vietnam."

The question is whether Mr. Nixon's re-election is worth the cost of his way of withdrawing - the cost in human lives and damage to the social fabric.

(Clipping filed Indochina/Comment.)