

Elections in South Vietnam

To the Editor:

It wasn't Big Minh but Little Henry Kissinger who splattered Vietnamese election egg over the face of America.

Following a lengthy private meeting with General Minh several months ago I tried very hard to tell Mr. Kissinger what he should have known anyway: that Minh would not accept his assigned role in a Kissinger-produced Bunker-directed charade billed as the 1971 South Vietnamese Presidential election. Minh happens to be an honest man as inwardly torn as his country is outwardly torn by an endless American-manufactured war.

Mr. Kissinger and Ambassador Bunker have not only befooled their President and our country: they have also destroyed the best chance for peace since the war began. Just as Asian heroin is hooking our sons, Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Bunker are hooking us to an Asian tyrant detested by his people and to an ongoing war without which the dictator cannot survive.

The American-rigged South Vietnamese election could be another chapter of the Pentagon papers being written before our eyes: another example of government deceit, lying by U.S. officials to the people they are supposed to be serving. As this chapter in the annals of falsehood is being written our great need is for one moral man, another Daniel Ellsberg

to step forward from Washington or Saigon to say: the highest form of treason is treason against the people: therefore at the risk of personal punishment I am revealing the disgusting machinations by which we conspired to prevent South Vietnamese freedom of choice, by which we kept their election from becoming an opportunity for Vietnamese self-determination and peace with honor for us.

The Pentagon papers tell us that "the explanation of how the U.S. mission became detached from political realities in Saigon in August 1963 is among the most ironic and tragic of our entire Vietnam involvement." Unfortunately, it is no different in August of 1971.

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The writer, who has organized business opposition to the war, was in Vietnam recently and met privately with Ambassador Bunker, Vice President Ky and General Minh.