

If He Wins

McG Predicts Thieu Exodus

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that would be a coalition group that would be willing to deal with Hanoi."

McGovern said the Communist-led Viet Cong "probably will move in during or immediately after" the United States pullout, but would try to broaden their base to ensure popular support.

He theorized that the Communists might be willing to accept a compromise leader temporarily such as Gen. Duong Van Minh who withdrew from the last South Vietnamese election.

McGovern said his view that the Communists would seek an accommodation rather than revenge on their opponents was "a policy of hope."

He claimed that the Communists had shown that "when they take over a village they don't assassinate the people there. They set up a school and a road system and a tax system. They just move in and take over."

Reminded of reports of public executions, deportations, harsh regimentation and enormous taxes under the Communists that came to light when South Vietnamese recaptured the places, McGovern replied:

"They may have picked out a village chief who was cooperating with Saigon to shoot."

He said such incidents should be placed in context with the deaths of 500,000 civilians by massive bombing and artillery attacks.

"I know they the Communists have done a lot of barbaric and cruel things, but I think that they have probably been more careful in the way that they deal with the villagers and rank-and-file people than we have," he said.

"We're the ones that have applied massive firepower and free-fire zones and this word pacification — and

cleared six million people out of their homes.

"And really, the massive suffering inflicted on the population, I believe, has come more from us than from the other side."

McGovern defended a remark by his vice presidential running mate, Sargent Shriver, that the Nixon Administration "blew" a peace opportunity after taking office in 1969.

"The only thing that probably should have been added is that former President Johnson missed that signal or chose to ignore it as well," McGovern said.

McGovern flies shortly to Texas to see Johnson, who has endorsed him despite disagreements on war policy.

McG Says Thieu Goes If Elected 'Exodus and Cong Coalition'

NEW YORK — (AP) — Sen. George McGovern says he expects President Nguyen Van Thieu to flee Saigon and a Communist-dominated coalition to take over in South Vietnam if McGovern is elected President.

Asked about the possibility of a bloodbath in such a situation, the Democratic nominee said, "Arrangements should be made to try to provide an easy exit for those people who want to leave."

McGovern was interviewed in Milwaukee Friday by reporters from eight news organizations with the understanding that his remarks would not be published until Sunday editions.

Present were representatives of the New York Sunday News, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, the Washington Star-News, the Chicago Daily News and Newsweek magazine.

McGovern predicted that he would defeat President Nixon on Nov. 7 and be in a position to implement his pledge to withdraw American forces and support from South Vietnam within 10 days of his inauguration in January.

"I would expect General Thieu and his cohorts to leave very quickly," he said when asked what would result.

"My guess is, that they would leave if I won the election and that there would be an exodus of the top generals and political figures out of the country, and that emerging behind

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