

## McG: Asylum for Thieu

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Sen. George McGovern, acknowledging he had begun an all-out campaign to broaden the base of his support, defended former President Johnson on the Vietnam War today and called for political asylum in the United States for South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu.

While declaring "I'm not compromising on principle," McGovern said he believes his supporters will understand that he must broaden his support to have a chance of defeating President Nixon in November.

He said his visit with Johnson at the LBJ Ranch last week was "one of the most treasured moments of my life . . . he inherited

that war. He didn't start it. He gave up his chance for reelection in an effort to end it."

McGovern made the remarks after an appearance on the "Today" show, during which he accused Nixon of running the war to suit his own election timetable.

On that program, and in comments to reporters afterwards, McGovern said he "absolutely" would offer political asylum in the United States to Thieu after the war.

"General Thieu has been our man in Saigon," he said. "We put him there. He may not represent the ideals of democracy, but he's our man. If he and his friends feel endangered by a post-

war settlement, we should welcome him here."

McGovern said he did not believe that there was danger of a blood bath in South Vietnam if the Communists take control and "I think unquestionably the slaughter will be greatly reduced" once a political settlement is reached. But he did acknowledge that the "people most in danger" were Thieu and the political leadership in Saigon.