

Democracy Ends

Thieu Forbids Village Voting

Examiner News Services

President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam has ordered an end\* to the country's oldest form of democracy, elections in villages and the country's 10,000 hamlets.

..... [A Nixon Administration] official said elimination of democracy at the grass roots undercuts President Nixon's position that his administration is trying to support the principle of self-determination in South Vietnam.

..... State Department spokesman Charles Bray said yesterday that Washington was not consulted in advance, but other officials said the United States knew of the decision "for quite a while."

The decision to halt the local democracy was made last month and printed early this week in the semiofficial Vietnam Press.

.....

\*6 Sep 72:(NYTimes 7 Sep, filed Indochina).