

McGovern's Report of Thieu Threat

Associated Press

Washington - Senator George McGovern said yesterday [on "Issues and Answers," ABC] that South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu threatened last year to resign if United States military and economic aid to his government were even reduced.

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McGovern said that, when he was in South Vietnam in September, 1971, Thieu told him that he would resign from office at the first sign the U.S. was abandoning him.

"He told me directly . . . that even if we reduce American military and economic aid that he would resign," McGovern said. "I think we ought to take him up on that."

McGovern said he thinks Thieu would refuse to participate in any coalition government involving a Communist representative.

"If we withdraw our support for him," McGovern said, "I have no doubt at all that within a matter of hours General Thieu would take care of the problem and he would be gone."

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