

All these unnecessary precautions and threats were taken and made even when possible competitors were excluded in advance from the race:

General Duong Van Minh (Big Minh) former chief of state and Dr. Au Truong Thanh, former Minister of Economy and Finance who planned to run on a peace platform, were banned from running.

So the stage was all set for the September 3 show. Washington put the final touch by sending a 22-man Presidential mission guided by former Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, who had openly favored military regimes in South Vietnam. The mission members, feted by Saigon government and the U.S. Embassy, escorted by government agents, communicating with people by government interpreters, toured half a dozen polling stations (8,824 in all) has passed its verdict—good show. "Good, orderly, wholesome," Ambassador Lodge declared.

The results of the elections: 83 per cent of the people voted (exactly as predicted by the U.S. Embassy in Saigon). The Thieu-Ky military ticket won by 35 per cent of the votes. Already seven out of ten civilian candidates lodged protest of fraud with the Constituent Assembly which

will have until October 2 to certify the validity of the elections. Dr. Phan Khac Suu, the civilian candidate who finished third and who is also the chairman of the Constituent Assembly complained that in many, many areas, his workers had estimated the turnover at only 10 per cent. Lots of complaints to come but it is not going to change the situation anyway.

LONE SURPRISE

One surprise (to Washington): a Saigon lawyer, Mr. Truong Dinh Dzu who campaigned on the platform of peace and anti-military junta in the clearest terms possible, finished second with 17 per cent of the votes.

Why were Washington and the U.S. mission in Saigon surprised? If there is any indication at all of the mood and desire of the Vietnamese people, it is their obvious concern about war and about the corrupted dictatorship of the military.

Of all the eleven candidates, only one advocated war. Even General Thieu talked peace and negotiations. But the Vietnamese have no voice in this war. Lamented columnist Joseph Kraft from Saigon: "But as long as Saigon (read: the U.S. military establishment in Saigon) thinks victory, it is very hard for Washington to move toward settlement. And thus the present outlook

despite the new setting created by the new elections remains barren."

Washington and Saigon do not think only victory but they expect "representative, democratic government" to emerge even with the old cast. But the September 3 elections is only the first act of the show.

DEADLY STRUGGLE

More to come. There will be in the coming weeks a deadly struggle between General Thieu, No. 1, and Vice-air Marshall Ky, the No. 2 who will try harder. Ky is not going to be a figurehead as a vice-president who should give up both the Premiership and the Air Command with the profits and powers provided by these two functions. But Thieu, cunning and less talkative, may strike first.

There will be organized opposition which logically will join the Buddhists who are preparing for their coming struggle against the illegal, unjust Buddhist Charter imposed on them by the junta on July 18. This important development will be the subject of another article.

In the final act of the show, there will be a lone actor; the U.S. and its suffocating military might against a background of dead bodies and burned villages of a deserted Vietnam.

A distorted, one-sided view of the truth about Vietnam

By RICH VIVONE

A guy can remember what the speaker was saying the other night. He can remember because he did not like it.

That night was cold and windy. Something like a notable scene from Macbeth who would have enjoyed this type of thing.

The guy can remember that he went to this place to hear the MAN talk about Vietnam—"the truth about Vietnam" were the advertised words.

The sign had large letters saying that there would be a speaker and films at the meeting. They catered

background

Last Friday the U of A Vietnam Action Committee presented a film, "The Threatening Sky", and a speaker, Dr. Gustavo Tolentino, in a program concerned with the war in Vietnam. Associate Caserole editor Rich Vivone attended the gathering, but took strong exception to the way the topic was handled. Here are his impressions of "The truth about Vietnam."

to two natural senses—sight and hearing. It turned out that smell would be present too.

The MAN came from Toronto via North Vietnam. He was invited by a campus political group who did not have enough sense to remain anonymous. This MAN came. He spoke and he spoke well.

He told of the atrocities committed in the north. He spoke emotionally of the Vietnamese people (both north and south — they are one people, he said) and the seemingly eternal but unholy war that plagues their land. He told of napalm and other gimmick bombs and the children and the terror that reigns.

Napalm does not maim structures or steel, he said. It just kills people. Comment — in war, structures do not shoot back. This is the livelihood of people.

The MAN told of the amazing resistance of these people who live in a country the size of Vancouver Island. He said many harsh things about the Americans and the presiding rulers of same. Comment—this is objectivity?

He also said he did not travel to South Vietnam. The International War Crimes Tribunal sent him north and they gave him a restricted ticket. On his travels, he moved at night and it is presumed the things of which he spoke were viewed at the same time. Comment—he had radar.

This MAN spoke well. He moved the listeners with his words of yearning for a united people kept apart by a foreign government who plundered the land. A guy got the impression that the line between north and south was imaginary and that it was ALL of Vietnam against the Americans.

On the north side, the MAN said there were no Russians and no Chinese troops. At least he did not see any. There were no foreign arms visible. The Vietnamese obtained their weapons from the bodies of the dead enemy. This little heisting habit accounted for almost 80 per cent of their weapons. Comment—want not, see not.

The MAN told of old men and children suffering from Napalm. These bombs contained white phosphorus which would continue to burn five months after the original contact.

He spoke of schools that were here, there and everywhere. The children attended at night and worked in the day.

There was a film too. It was called "The Threatening Sky" and it was devoted to North Vietnam. According to this wonderful work of scene-ography, the largest weapon in that sector was a shoulder rifle with which the Vietnamese ingeniously shot jet planes out of the sky. These people even taught courses on sky raiding. It's great fun. There were beautiful shots of jets spiralling to the earth all aflame.

This film had nice scenes of fat cattle and of people that displayed not too many ribs. The Vietnamese continued to plant rice and work while the jets flew overhead. It was all in the film.

The MAN hinted the United States was in Vietnam because of China and the Communists and a contagious fear of both.

But this guy is not an American and this guy does not condone war. But he does believe that the men who make decisions concerning places like Vietnam know more than most other guys. They certainly know more than a medical doctor from Toronto who toured North Vietnam nightly for a few weeks.



—Jim MacLaren photo

IF YOU DISAGREE, THEN PROTEST
... but who knows what the 'truth' is?

Bert Russell's War Crimes Tribunal is a fine thing. They preach peace but they make war—civil war which is worse than international war. And they make war on beliefs. That is not a good thing.

The MAN was here to plug a drive for a march on October 21 in which all the good citizens of this land should participate. A citizen should take his children, preferably under six so they won't be embarrassed, to show that the number of those protesting the war in Vietnam are increasing in number. We are becoming thousands, the MAN said.

What this man is advocating is a war on governments. What is this country destined for when we elect leaders and then sit in judgment every day? Why elections if the

people are better informed to implement policies and make decisions?

The MAN said the Canadian government was selling equipment to the Americans—equipment that fortifies the bombing and the attacks, and the 'aggression'.

He said that we should not take to heart that which Paul Martin (Minister of External Affairs) says. Martin said publicly a few days ago that the bombing of the North would stop.

This was the truth about Vietnam. A one-sided version. But the guy did not take it too seriously until he saw that professors from this university sat and listened and agreed. They even helped.

That did scare the guy.

Knowing that the MAN sowed seeds would scare anyone.