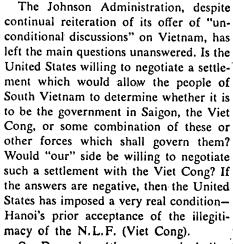
Interview:

An Exchange WITH VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY by Robert Scheer



On December 4th a group including Special Forces veteran Don Duncan (see partial transcript which follows was composed from our notes. QUESTION: 1) Is the United States willing

to negotiate with the N.L.F.?; 2) Does the

has long been one of self-determination and free elections in Vietnam; the winner is of no concern to us. If and when there is peace, elections will be held.

QUESTION: Would the elections be recognized if the N.L.F. won?

HUMPHREY: The Communists could never win a free election. Do you have any other

page 15), University of California Mathematics Professor Morris Hirsch and myself raised these questions in an interview with Vice-President Humphrey at Moffett Naval Air Station. We felt that his answers deny the Administration's professed desire for a fair and negotiated peace. The meeting was closed to newsmen and although the Vice-Presidential staff recorded the interview, we were refused a copy. The

United States favor free elections in which the N.L.F. would participate and would these elections be recognized if the N.L.F. HUMPHREY: The Administration's policy

...the winner is of no concern to us ...

questions, gentlemen?

QUESTION: Mr. Humphrey, if the N.L.F. did win, however, would we abide by the results?

HUMPHREY: The United States Government does not engage in 'ifs'. Do you have any other questions?

QUESTION: Do you favor free elections in which the N.L.F. could participate?

HUMPHREY: The Viet Cong is not a legitimate political force; it is an illegitimate, subversive, terroristic organization, supplied, directed and controlled by a foreign government.

QUESTION: Would the United States allow the N.L.F. to participate in free elections? HUMPHREY: The Viet Cong is not a legiti-

mate political party; elections are for people, not for terrorist groups. We would like to see elections held under the auspices of the United Nations or some other

non-partisan organization.

QUESTION: According to article 14 of the Geneva Accords, democratic liberties of all persons and organizations are to be upheld. Is not the N.L.F. a political organization?

HUMPHREY: We believe in the freedom of political parties, but there is a difference between peaceful and terroristic, subversive parties.

QUESTION: Why has there not been a clear statement made regarding the United States' willingness to negotiate with the N.L.F.?

HUMPHREY: We will negotiate with the North Vietnamese and whomever they bring in. The United States negotiates only with governments, not with a band of wandering minstrels.

QUESTION: But a peace was negotiated with the Viet Minh in 1954 and the Pathet Lao in 1962, and neither group was a government.

HUMPHREY: The N.L.F. is not recognized as a government.

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