

WAR
FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT
OCT. 70

55
GUTHS GUT, GUTHS III

VM/MS 10/12/70

Signs of Peace on New MPC?

SAIGON (AP) — If the faces on the money mean anything, the new military scrip issued to Americans in South Vietnam last Thursday seems to signify a shift toward peace.

At least it's being read that way by some of Saigon's more optimistic observers, who take note of the fact that the new money carries pictures having nothing to do with Vietnam or the war.

Instead of jet aircraft, nuclear submarines, tanks and Green Beret troopers squinting into the

sun, there are eagles, American Indians, Hoover Dam, buffaloes and girls whose glowing faces seem to have been clipped from soap ads in a 1935 edition of the Saturday Evening Post.

The most military theme on any of the new scrip shows in the craggy face of an Indian chief in full war bonnet, and another who looks like an old tintype of Sitting Bull, the famous Sioux medicine man who zapped Gen. George A. Custer in 1876.

Thursday's money change was the third since the Military

Payment Certificates were introduced in 1965 for use by Americans on U.S. military and government installations.

Like the others, the surprise change was aimed chiefly at catching black market money dealers who sell MPC illegally just as they do Vietnamese piasters.

MPC is printed by the U.S. Treasury and despite the view of the optimists here, the selection of themes for its pictures seems to be more or less random.