

17 Aug

Rufe -

Some thoughts:

1. What is the present US involvement in Thailand? Would statements or consequent actions re Viet Nam also put our affairs in ~~Viet Nam~~^{Thailand} in jeopardy? And, what about elsewhere - such as Bob Coate's cogent thought about the consequences for Israeli?
2. Some of the recent statements about the US dictating the form of gov't in Saigon make the Democratic politicians wide open to a Nixon attack -- on moral and ethical grounds that could have great appeal to American liberals. This vulnerability is something that H³ should be wary about.
3. As I have said a number of times, the next generations of Americans are going to continue being challenged by "wars of national liberation". The only way that they won't be will be for us

to just quit, go into our neo-isolationism -- and condemn our future generations to a lousy, ever-narrowing life. But, admittedly, we have made our help to the victims of such "national liberation" a horribly costly process in Viet Nam -- and we must find a better way. We couldn't afford 2 or 3 Viet Nam's at once -- as I'm sure some of the brainier folks in Peking or even in Moscow or Havana have figured out. Thus, H³'s credibility would be enhanced if he went right to the heart of this -- and promised to do his very best as President to honor our present commitment, while finding a much better solution to the problem. Maybe this could be in the form of establishing a Presidential team under the present National Security office of the White House -- to make first-hand surveys at the invitation of foreign gov'ts threatened to undergo "national liberation" -- a team that would then tailor a small emergency group to operate in a trouble spot country -- as a complete substitute for the traditional or customary US bureaucratic representation there (remember Julio San Jines' horror at

having us help Bolivia the way we are doing in VN). Such a team - a militant "peace corps" - might even do the unthinkable by adding one or two folks from the Hill, for on-the-spot political judgements and assistance.

VN has shown that we need to be wiser, more mature in our solutions -- not kids wanting to get off the merry-go-round. We're stuck, whether we like it or not. So, the soundest answer is to find one hell of a lot better way of solving these problems. Jack Kennedy rang the bell with his straight talk "don't ask what America can do for you, etc". So did Churchill with his "this is our finest hour". H³ can sure make ^{the} political words of a leader able to fire up Americans if he spells out the tough problem, isn't so doggone defensive, and comes up with an imaginative way of trying to find better answers - simply because we Americans must find them.

PS - Your memos make a lot of sense.

Ed