

Chinh Luan editorial April 21, 1971

As the election comes near, we can see three most "outstanding" views of the 3 "biggest" personalities. First, Pres. Thieu advocates a "military victory". Second, VP Nguyen Cao Ky advocates a "political solution". Third, Gen Duong Van Minh advocates a "conciliatory settlement of the people living together in peace". All three views are right.

Pres. Thieu is right because first of all he has the responsibility of leading the nation which is pursuing a war which has ~~not~~ hope of another solution other than military. This is the just answer to the enemy's stubborn demand: a unilateral surrender.

VP Ky is right because <sup>best</sup> solution to end a special war such as the VN war is a political one. He was so determined as to advocate an invasion of NVN singlehandedly so that he ~~was~~ labeled as a hawk but now he is advocating a conciliatory solution which may turn him into a dove, proves that the situation and life has helped him to be perspicacious, which somebody who is not in a high and vital position as he is cannot be.

Gen. Minh is also right. In the past, the three of them have had the same chances to promote themselves. Now that the two others have their views, Minh has to have a different view and most attractive.

But of the three views, there are also a wrong aspect. Thieu has put himself in a one way street. Ky has quickly forgotten the days that he first led the VN delegation to the Paris talks in order to reach a political solution in order to end this bloody war. Minh has also put himself in a dead alley, although there is a difference, Thieu's is on the right and his is on the left.

Actually if these three views, if serious, and put together, would come up with a strategy which will ~~make~~ force the aggressors to end this war so that the people of North and South VN may enjoy peace. But the problem is nobody wants to join with ~~any~~ anybody: everybody says ~~he~~ is for the people but one says this and the other says that.

Such a leadership, we fear, is only ~~the~~ in the style of the "blinds who feel the elephant"