

Viet People Favor VC

► **THE PEOPLE** of South Viet Nam, by all evidence, do not like communism. Yet if they had to choose between their present military regime and the Viet Cong, they would probably take the Viet Cong, a national convention of psychologists was told in New York.

This analysis of South Vietnamese attitudes was made by Dr. Ralph K. White of George Washington University, who based his conclusions on a study of publicly available evidence.

Dr. White told the American Psychological Association that he has found good reason to believe the typical South Vietnamese villager is fully aware the Viet Cong is Communist controlled. Moreover, the villager fears and dislikes the type of communism that has been established in the North, the Washington psychologist said.

Nevertheless, this same villager seems to view the Viet Cong as a lesser evil for several reasons.

The people of South Viet Nam apparently hated the Diem regime, Dr. White said. They see some change for the better in the government now. But the change has not been great enough.

The peasants want land, for one thing, Dr. White emphasized. Although the Ky Government has made spotty efforts at reform, the land is still held mostly by a small group of absentee owners.

What makes matters worse, Dr. White said, is that the Viet Minh, in areas it once controlled, actually gave land to the peasants.

Nationalism is also a potent force in South Viet Nam, Dr. White said. It acts naturally in favor of the Viet Cong over a regime backed by foreign

governments—first France, and now the United States.

Another point in favor of the Viet Cong relates to physical suffering. Although the villager suffers from both sides, government forces have found it necessary to bomb whole villages, while the Viet Cong carefully pinpoints its victims. It is a little known fact in this country, Dr. White said, that Viet Cong victims have been, with few exceptions, aliens and outsiders as far as the villagers are concerned. Often they are Saigon-appointed head men.

Therefore, "we cannot assume that a majority of the Vietnamese people want our help," Dr. White said, any more than the Viet Cong can call itself "the sole legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people."

The truth is that "a great many in South Viet Nam—in the cities probably a majority, and perhaps a majority of the peasants too—are against both the Communists and us."

Dr. White believes the Vietnamese people, given a chance, would choose a neutral Buddhist Government.

He suggested the U.S. Government should give up trying to win all of South Viet Nam and hold only what it has now. A neutral government free of domination by either Communists or the United States could be established then.

Coalition with the Viet Cong would be a mistake, Dr. White believes, since it would most likely mean Viet Cong domination.

Dr. White's sources included writings of historians and reports of first-hand observers, particularly Dr. Bernard Fall of Howard University in Washington, author of "The Two Viet Nams" and Malcolm Browne, Associated Press correspondent and author of "The New Face of War."

BIOLOGY

Lymph Glands Seen Evolved From Platypus

► **THE PLATYPUS** and the spiny ant-eater are playing a vital part in helping science understand the human body.

Australian scientists have demonstrated that the platypus and spiny ant-eater possess lymph glands, which were the primitive basis from which the human lymph glands evolved, Dr. G. J. Nosall, director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, said at the Haematology and Blood Transfusion Congress at Sydney University.

"They have shown that the animals are a 'missing link' in a way," Dr. Nosall said.

"Their researchers prove these Australian animals are closer to the evolutionary main trunk than are monkeys or kangaroos."

PSYCHOLOGY

Chinese Lack Delinquency

► **ALTHOUGH** New York City's Chinatown is crowded and impoverished, juvenile delinquency has never been a problem. The reason, according to a Mount Holyoke College psychologist, can be found in the unique Chinese method of raising children.

Chinese mothers are far more lenient in weaning and training infants than are their U.S. counterparts, said Dr. Richard T. Sollenberger, who interviewed 69 mothers during his summer's residence in Chinatown.

At the same time, Chinese parents do not tolerate aggression in their children. These factors, plus very stable families and an emphasis on social control, deter young people in Chinatown from delinquency, Dr. Sollenberger believes.

By all indications, Chinatown could be expected to have a high rate of juvenile delinquency. It is densely populated. The houses are old, often walk-up flats above stores. There are no public recreational facilities, except for one small park. The people have low incomes and meet with discrimination. In addition, a cultural conflict exists between Chinese-born parents and American-born children.

However, youth authorities in Chinatown unanimously confirm the lack of delinquency, Dr. Sollenberger said.

In describing family stability in Chinatown, Dr. Sollenberger said, "the degree of harmony and integration within the families of these children is very striking." Divorce is a rarity, and

in taped formal interviews, 90% of the mothers said they "admired and esteemed their husbands' values and personalities."

Children are included in family and social gatherings. They are taught how to act by example, rather than through directions from parents, Dr. Sollenberger said. Instead of using physical punishment, he said, Chinese parents will withdraw the naughty child from the family's social life or deprive him of a special privilege. Rarely, if ever, is the child ridiculed.

In his early years, the Chinese child is indulged. For example, the psychologist noted that 54% of the mothers did not complete weaning before their child reached the age of two and one-half years. The beginning of continuous bowel control is between 15 and 19 months. Bed-time is flexible and children usually go to bed when they are sleepy.

But the one area of behavior most rigidly controlled, said Dr. Sollenberger, is aggression. Three-fourths of the mothers said they did not want their children to fight with others under any conditions. When permissiveness in this area was allowed, it came from the one-third of the sample that was American or Canadian-born.

Dr. Sollenberger noticed an unusual amount of social control operating for these children. The Chinese have many relatives, he said, and as one informant put it "as you walk around the streets of Chinatown, you have a hundred cousins watching you."