

## **Concession comments: Arthur Calwell, Opposition Leader (ALP)**

***Canberra, November 27<sup>th</sup> 1966***

“ The Government’s win in the elections could lead to escalation of the war in Vietnam and the invasion of North Vietnam.

This could lead to disastrous unwinnable war with China.

We warned the people about this danger but they chose to reject our advice”.

The Labor Party took its stand on two great principles of foreign policy – non-participation in the Vietnam war and the use of conscripts for any overseas war.

Though we were defeated on this occasion we will never abandon any principle for which we have long stood.

Labor’s splendid programmes of social service and education reforms have been given subordinate consideration by the electors, to the Vietnam issue.

I am sorry for my defeated colleagues and for the great disappointment the results bring to Labor’s candidates, party members and supporters.

We believe our cause was a just one. We still believe it. We are certain that time will vindicate our party and all that it stands for.”

Source: Compiled from The Canberra Times, November 28<sup>th</sup> 1966, page 1 and original documents.