

Nixon Vows Aid To South Vietnam

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Associated Press

San Clemente

President Nixon and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu pledged a joint effort yesterday to build a lasting Indochina peace, then began discussing Saigon's plea for stepped-up U.S. economic aid.

After the leaders completed an initial 90-minute meeting at Mr. Nixon's home here, officials indicated that Thieu had received Mr. Nixon's pledge of an infusion of U.S. aid for postwar reconstruction.

But indications were that Mr. Nixon was frowning upon a Thieu request for a specific U.S. guarantee of renewed military intervention if North Vietnam blatantly violates the still-fragile cease-fire agreement.

As he gave Thieu a full military welcome, Mr. Nixon expressed hopes that their two days of talks would produce "great steps forward in building the lasting peace, the real peace that we have fought together for . . ."

Thieu responded by expressing "heartfelt gratitude" for past U.S. assistance and said he hoped the meeting would bring "a con-

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solidation of peace in Indochina and a new era of constructive cooperation in peace among all parties concerned."

After the two leaders' opening meeting, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said they had reviewed the situation in Indochina and had "stressed the importance of implementing" the cease-fire agreement signed two months ago in Paris.

The two presidents, Ziegler said, "reaffirmed the continuing strong friendly ties" between their countries and discussed the development of their postwar relations.

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The spokesman said the talks were held in "an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality." Sources reported there was hard bargaining on economic issues. Ziegler acknowledged there was "substantial discussion regarding economic assistance . . . redevelopment assistance . . . which the United States could continue to provide to South Vietnam as we move into the postwar period."

He said the leaders were discussing "in depth and in detail" such other questions as efforts to account for U.S. troops still missing in action, reported infiltration by North Vietnam and the presence of North Vietnamese troops in Laos and Cambodia.

When asked whether the U.S. would renew bombing if North Vietnam blatantly violated the cease-fire, Ziegler declined to answer, saying, "It won't serve any useful purpose to speculate on . . . the United States' response to hypothetical developments."

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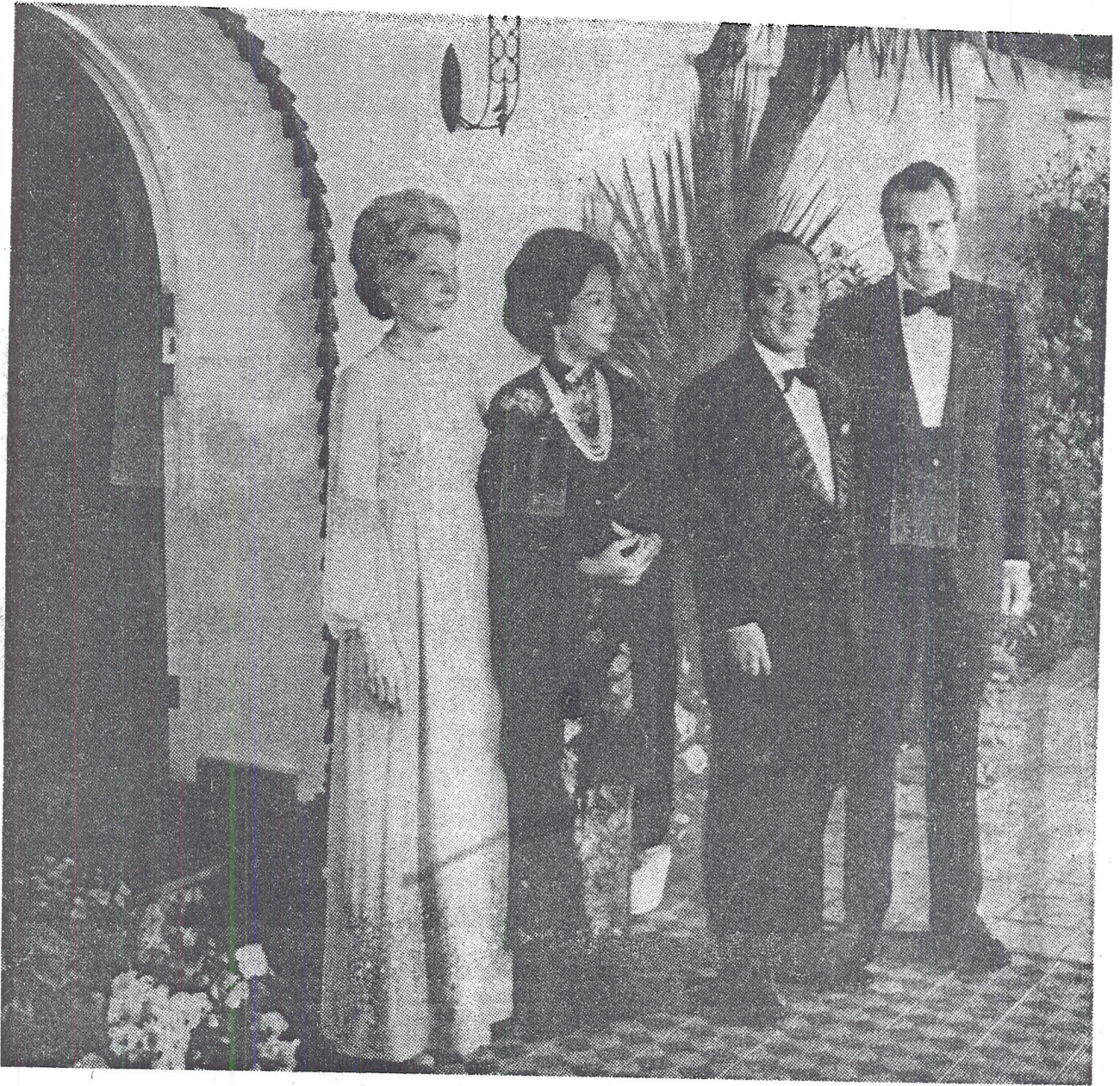
This statement appeared to reflect Mr. Nixon's reported view that he should avoid any specific commitment in response to Thieu's request for a guarantee of military intervention. Rather, Mr. Nixon is said to be ready to repeat his not-so-specific warning to Hanoi that he expects full compliance with the cease-fire agreement.

In welcoming Thieu Mr. Nixon said: the Vietnamese now "have the strength to defend their won independence and their right to choose their own government . . ."

" . . . We hope from this day, as a result of our talks," Mr. Nixon said, "will

come great steps forward in building the lasting peace, the real peace that we have fought together for, and that now we want all of our people to live for."

Thieu responded by expressing "heartfelt gratitude . . . for the noble contribution of the American nation" to defend his country.



PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON WELCOMED PRESIDENT AND MRS. THIEU
The Nixons were hosts at a working dinner for their guests at San Clemente

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