

INDO

U.S. PLEDGES AID FOR SAIGON ANEW

JAN 28 1975

On the Second Anniversary
of Cease-Fire, Washington
Affirms Determination
NY Times

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—The State Department marked the second anniversary of the Paris cease-fire accords today with a pledge that the United States would continue to support the Saigon Government with military and economic aid.

Asked whether the department had any comment on the anniversary, Robert Anderson, the spokesman, said:

"With considerable regret, this anniversary, instead of taking place in an atmosphere of peace and political competition, has been marked by an escalation of North Vietnamese military pressure against the South which violates the letter and spirit of the agreement."

Mr. Anderson said the United States "intends to continue to work in support of the objectives and purposes of the Paris agreement, and to this end, we are going to support the Government of Vietnam with military and economic aid so they can defend themselves."

\$300-Million Sought

The Administration has already announced its intention to ask Congress for a supplemental appropriation of \$300-million this fiscal year to aid the Saigon forces.

This continuing aid was justified by Mr. Anderson as in line with the Administration's original military aid request of \$1.4-billion.

That figure was cut to \$1-billion in the authorization bill enacted by Congress, but Congress limited the actual appropriations to \$700-million. The \$300-million represents the difference between the authorization and the appropriation measures.

Mr. Anderson was asked whether the Saigon Government had also violated the Paris accords, and he said the question should be posed to the South Vietnamese Government.

He said he knew of no new diplomatic approach by the United States to revive the cease-fire.

But he said the United States would support Saigon's call for negotiations with the Vietcong to resume in Paris, where they have been broken off since April.

Meanwhile, 2,000 to 3,000 demonstrators met in Washington yesterday to protest against continuing aid to Saigon. At a meeting, Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, said:

"It was wrong 10 years ago when it was Johnson's war; it was wrong two years ago when it was Nixon's war; and it is wrong now when it is Ford's war."

The rally and a candlelight march past the White House was called by the Assembly to Save the Peace Agreement, a group that has attacked both the United States and the Saigon Government.

Over the weekend, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia also met in Washington to promote support for its effort to get "the fullest possible accounting" of Americans still officially listed as missing in action.

Tho Accuses the U.S.

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 27 (AP)—Le Duc Tho, who signed the Vietnam cease-fire agreement with Henry A. Kissinger two years ago, charged the Ford Administration today with "giving a new path to the war" by urging additional military aid for the Saigon Government.

Speaking on North Vietnamese television to mark the second anniversary of the accord, Mr. Tho said the Ford Administration was attempting to "intimidate the Vietnamese people" through military aid to Saigon and by "sending aircraft carriers and warships to South Vietnamese territorial waters and putting United States troops stationed in Okinawa on alert."