

# Thieu Shifts Cabinet And Criticizes U. S.

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 4—President Nguyen Van Thieu named a new Premier tonight to head a "government of war and national union" and said that that Government intended to defend the country's remaining territory against the Communists.

Speaking over television and radio, Mr. Thieu called upon the United States "to meet its commitments to South Vietnam."

"The American people as well as the American Congress must see now that they have got to

Continued on Page 9, Column 7

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

do something for the people of South Vietnam to keep from earning the label of traitors," Mr. Thieu declared.

The President announced that he had removed Gen. Tran Thien Khiem from the Premiership and replaced him with Nguyen Ba Can, speaker of the lower house of Parliament. The other ministers were yet to be named.

Mr. Thieu said the Americans had recently told him that with a supplementary appropriation of \$300-million, the war could be won soon.

"I said that this is absurd," the President went on. "Three hundred million dollars would be enough for only 30 days of fighting.

"It is especially absurd, considering that the Americans, who fought the Communists for six years with billions and billions of dollars, have withdrawn, leaving us behind to continue in fighting without money and without B-52's."

## 'At Least \$1.5-Billion'

He said he therefore hoped that Congress would appropriate more money. "I have told the Americans," Mr. Thieu reported, "that we need at least \$1.5-billion per year to defend the entire territory of South Vietnam. If we get only \$700-million, then we will be able to defend only one-half of our territory."

The President spoke out several hours after the Interior Ministry announced that a coup had been foiled and a number of people arrested.

The military command of the capital district issued a communiqué informing residents of Saigon that the Government was determined not to evacuate the capital, and called on the populace not to "listen or spread groundless rumors."

## Thieu Seen Staying In

Various high-ranking officers have been holding almost non-stop conferences about the nation's leadership, with a view to persuading the President to step down. The Vietcong have said that they will not enter into any peace negotiations until he leaves office.

Although calls for his resignation have now come from military officers, leaders of both the Roman Catholic and Buddhist churches and from civilian politicians, including the entire South Vietnamese Senate, all indications were that Mr. Thieu intended to remain in the Presidency.

In his broadcast, the President called on the people and the armed forces to remain calm and steady and to defend the remaining national territory. He denied rumors that he had made some kind of deal with the Communists to cede to them the northern part of the country.

## U.S. Aid and Morale

Mr. Thieu conceded that the recent catastrophic reverses suffered by his armed forces were partly the result of "cowardice and the lack of determination of a number of our military leaders." He ascribed part of the blame to the United States Congress.

"Decreased United States aid during the past two years has seriously affected the morale of our troops as well as the

faith of the Vietnamese people in American promises," he said.

He also blamed foreign news agencies, publications and radio stations, especially the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Voice of America.

He charged that the B.B.C. and the Voice of America had "spread rumors by the Communists and saboteurs in own ranks, as a result of which we lost several provinces" in the northern part of the country.

NYT  
4-5-75

## Asks Talks Based on Pact

The President said the Vietnamese people were determined to fight on, and he demanded that the Government maintain "stability in the rear." He also said that he had asked that the new government be prepared to negotiate with the Communists on the basis of the Paris peace agreements of 1973.

The Vietcong, however, have said they will not negotiate with the Saigon Government so long as Mr. Thieu remains the President.

As the President spoke, former Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky was conferring with other air force officers on the leadership question in a closed meeting.

Yesterday Marshal Ky, Gen. Cao Van Vien, the army Chief of Staff, and other officers advised the President to step down, and soon thereafter the Interior Ministry made its announcement about a plotted coup, the second in a week.

## Some Arrests in Saigon

The police moved over a wide area of Saigon under cover of curfew, arresting an unreported number of suspected opponents of the President in their homes. No generals or other military men were said to have been among them. Those picked up seemed to have little political power. On March 27, seven anti-Thieu figures reportedly were seized.

According to one widely circulated rumor, the Communists plan to give President Thieu until next Tuesday to step down and if he has not done so they will attack. (S A P R)

Among those who feel they will move into power with the departure of President Thieu is Vu Van Mau, who was a Foreign Minister in the Government of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. Mr. Mau's close ties with the An Quang faction of the Buddhist church here and his platform of reconciliation with the Communists, in the name of peace, have made him one of the likeliest candidates to head a coalition government with the Vietcong.

Mr. Mau said in an interview today that the achievement of peace here still "involves very complex problems." He declined to say whether he thought peace was now at hand.