

# THIEU-NIXON NOTES LINKED TO TRUCE

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State Department Aides Say  
Secrecy Was Needed for  
Reaching '73 Accord  
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WASHINGTON, April 10—Informed State Department officials said today that Secretary of State Kissinger did not make public the private exchanges between President Richard M. Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam in 1973 because he felt this would have jeopardized reaching a cease-fire agreement in Paris.

This disclosure followed the acknowledgment yesterday by the White House that Mr. Nixon had told Mr. Thieu in the final stages of the Paris negotiations that the United States would respond vigorously to Communist violations of the cease-fire accord.

Mr. Thieu, the officials said today, would not have agreed to the signing without such a "statement of intent", and the North Vietnamese would not have signed if they had known about such a statement. The cease-fire accord, which was signed Jan. 25, 1973, prohibited the resumption of American military activity in North and South Vietnam.

One State Department official said: "Everyone is screaming now; but back in January, 1973, they just wanted us out of Vietnam with practically no questions asked."

Meanwhile, more Senators called for Congressional investigations to get to the bottom of the Nixon-Thieu exchanges.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, announced that he had asked the Armed Services Committee to hold hearings. Mr. Jackson first raised the issue of secret agreements two days ago.

Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, said in a telephone interview that he would ask the Foreign Relations Committee "to find out what the facts are." Mr. Church characterized White House explanations of the exchanges as part of "the double-talk, deception and deceit that have been endemic in our whole Vietnam policy at every stage."

## Commitment Now Moot

The White House contends that what happened between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Thieu was not secret since its substance had been publicly stated by Mr. Nixon and that the communications were in the nature of an exchange and not a commitment or assurance. In any event, the White House maintains, the issue became moot in August, 1973, when Congress prohibited military intervention in Indochina.

Mr. Church, who was the co-author of that legislation, said:

"Nothing was said to us at that time about any private undertakings by the United States. I do not recall anyone advising the committee that any understanding, written, tacit or otherwise, had been made.

"However we may have asked the questions of the Administration at that time, we were left with the clear impression that nothing was being kept from us."

A State Department official said the exchanges, which dealt both with the possible reintroduction of American air power and continuing military aid—were in the nature of a statement of intent and not a commitment or obligation.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York in a telephone interview labeled the explanations "semantics."

"Whatever you call these documents," Mr. Javits said, "they should have been provided to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee along with all other materials relating to the Paris accords."

J. W. Fulbright, the former committee chairman, could not be reached to verify Mr. Javits's recollection that the committee had specifically asked for all relevant documents and oral understandings.

Nor could former Secretary of State William P. Rogers be reached. Mr. Rogers testified on the Paris accords before Congressional committees in February, 1973.

The Senate Democratic Leader, Mike Mansfield, said Secretary of State Kissinger was technically correct when he told Congress that no secret agreements existed. The Senator said Mr. Kissinger "was probably sticking to the letter of the meaning of 'secret agreement' and to that extent he was right."

In Brussels, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who served as President Nixon's chief of staff and is now North Atlantic military commander, denied that he recently acknowledged that there had been secret agreements.

"This report is not true," a statement said.

"On March 27, General Haig addressed a joint gathering of two senior service schools in Washington. During his presentation, he made no reference to secret agreements with President Thieu."