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# Ford Is 'Hopeful' On Vietnam Funds

Washington

Despite growing evidence of congressional and public disapproval of President Ford's proposal to give South Vietnam \$722 million in emergency military assistance, his press secretary said yesterday that Mr. Ford "remains hopeful" Congress will give him what he asks.

Ron Nessen, the press secretary, reported that as of yesterday morning phone calls to the White House on the President's speech Thursday night were running slightly more unfavorable than favorable, and telegrams were running against Mr. Ford by nearly 3 to 1.

Of 635 phone calls monitored and tabulated, Nessen said, 290 were rated as expressing support of the President's speech to 342 against, with assorted comments not indicating favor or disfavor. Of 1732 telegrams received, he said, only 443 were rated favorable to 1125 unfavora-

ble and 164 mixed.

In regard to both phone calls and telegrams, Nessen said, the reaction was to the overall speech, not any specific proposal. But the military aid request was clearly the most important aspect of the speech.

Nessen said concerning Mr. Ford's request for \$250 million in humanitarian aid for Vietnam that "the method of dispensing it has not been decided," nor has there been a decision whether it would go to all those in need in Vietnam, or just those who fled the North Vietnamese.

Nessen spent the bulk of yesterday's White House briefing reiterating administration denials that no "secret agreements" had been struck with the South Vietnamese government as alleged by Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem-Wash.), a declared presidential candidate.

"The President knows of

none," Nessen said. "The secretary of state, who was intimately involved in the negotiations, asserts knowledgeably that there were none. General Haig (Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House chief of staff for then President Nixon) has issued a statement there were none. Former President Nixon never said there were any."

Wednesday Nessen acknowledged that Mr. Nixon had given private assurances to Saigon at the time of the Paris accords of 1973. Yesterday he said he had seen the private communications and that while there were differences in language there were no differences of "substance."

Washington Post

## Frigid Zone

New York

The lowest temperature yesterday was five degrees at Cut Bank, Mont.

United Press