

**\$200 Million for Relief****Senate Unit OKs  
Limited Viet Aid****Arms Fund  
Remains  
Stalled**

Washington

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation yesterday authorizing \$200 million in emergency aid for humanitarian relief and evacuation programs in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

The administration's urgent request for \$722 million in emergency military aid for the Saigon government remained stalled in Congress, however.

Without some additional military aid, South Vietnamese forces will run out of ammunition by the end of May, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger predicted before the House Committee on International Relations.

Similar predictions came from General Frederick C. Weyand, the Army Chief of Staff, in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee. Weyand said that South Vietnam could survive only "a matter of weeks" if it does not receive at least part of the requested emergency military aid.

Kissinger, however, describing the military situation as "very grim," told the International Relations Committee that he could give no assurance that additional military aid would save South Vietnam. In fact, he dropped broad hints that the situation has deteriorated to the point that the South Vietnamese government might be interested in negotiating an orderly transition of power.

South Vietnam's foreign minister, Vuong Van Bac, met here with Kissinger and later told newsmen that South Vietnam is ready to resume negotiations with the Communist side, but there has been no response.

"We maintain the position

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that we are ready to negotiate at any time," said Bac.

There were growing indications that the Ford administration does not expect the Saigon government to survive into May.

President Ford announced the creation of a special task force to coordinate evacuation, humanitarian and refugee efforts in South Vietnam. The task force will be headed by Dean Brown, a retired foreign service officer.

The Defense Department confirmed that the nuclear-powered carrier Enterprise has cut short a good will visit to Manila and is en route to the South China sea to join the carrier Coral Sea, presumably in preparation for an emergency evacuation of American and South Vietnamese citizens.

Under some Congressional pressure, the State Department presented the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with a plan for accelerated evacuation of "non-essential" American citizens in South Vietnam. The plan

is designed to reduce the American contingent in Saigon from 4000 to 2000 persons by the middle of next week.

In discussing negotiations between Saigon and the Vietnamese, Kissinger told the House committee: "I believe in Saigon today there is a great readiness to negotiate with considerable flexibility."

He added that it is evident that there has been no change in North Vietnam's demand for the resignation of President Nguyen Van Thieu as a precondition to any negotiations. But he said, "I do not believe that any one personality is going to be a key to a settlement."

On the basis of conversations with State Department officials, some congressional staff members gained the impression that Thieu's resignation might be imminent.

Kissinger, moreover, pointedly linked the promise of additional military aid to any negotiations to achieve a "humane transition" of power.

At another point, he suggested that the promise of additional military aid, which he described as a "bargaining chip," also is

designed to provide the "controlled conditions" that would permit the safe evacuation of Americans from South Vietnam.

The legislation approved by the Senate committee yesterday authorized \$100 million for humanitarian and evacuation programs in South Vietnam and another \$100 million for humanitarian relief in South Vietnam and Cambodia, to be administered by international relief agencies.

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