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France Urges New Talks
To Carry Out '73
Accords

A Shift in U.S. Policy

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 21—Administration sources said today that President Ford two or three weeks ago ordered a "hands off" policy that neither supported nor abandoned President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam.

Either President Ford or Secretary of State Kissinger—it could not be determined which—specifically instructed Ambassador Graham A. Martin in Saigon to follow this line, the officials said.

This instruction, to the extent that Ambassador Martin carried it out, must have been interpreted by high South Vietnamese officials and military men as a change in American policy, one official said.

The officials speculated that close associates of Mr. Thieu put pressure on him in recent weeks to resign, arguing that the Americans wanted him out and that his resignation was the only hope of getting Con-

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U.S. Took 'Hands Off' Policy on Thieu

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gress to vote some military aid. Authoritative Administration officials said today that they had received reports from Saigon as recently as yesterday saying that President Nguyen Van Thieu would not resign.

The officials said that a special intelligence report from Saigon, supported by cables from the American Embassy, said that Mr. Thieu planned to give a major speech today announcing that he would continue indefinitely to fight against the Communists.

Other officials made it plain that in the last month the general sentiment in the Administration was strongly against Mr. Thieu, but that Mr. Ford and Mr. Kissinger had decided not to have any direct responsibility in his ouster.

As for the negotiations that many legislators assumed were in progress, the authoritative officials said that they amounted to nothing more than requesting the Soviet Union and China to restrain North Vietnam and using "intermediaries" to ascertain what Hanoi's demands were.

According to these officials, Moscow and Peking never re-

sponded to diplomatic notes sent 11 days ago urging them to meet their obligations under the 1973 Paris cease-fire accords and to use their influence to halt the fighting. This so annoyed Mr. Kissinger that he condemned their roles in Indochina in a speech to the American Society of newspaper editors last Thursday, the officials said.

Direct Contacts Ruled Opt

President Ford and Mr. Kissinger ruled out direct contact with the North Vietnamese or the Vietcong.

Appearing before the House Appropriations committee this afternoon, Mr. Kissinger referred to negotiating "efforts" now under way, but said it would be inappropriate to discuss them at this time. For what the authoritative officials said, he appeared Mr. Kissinger was talking about efforts by intermediaries, including the

French Government, to bring about direct contact between the new Saigon government and the Communist side.

The State Department spokesman, Robert Anderson, said today that the United States had been informed in advance that Mr. Thieu would resign, but declined to say when this notification was received. Other officials implied that the first word came either late yesterday or sometime early this morning.

Mr. Anderson said that the United States would consider with sympathy any request by Mr. Thieu for asylum here, but that this question was still speculative. Mr. Anderson also said that he knew of no plans for Mr. Kissinger to go to Paris for possible negotiations, and that the question of future discussions with the Communists would be more properly left to the new Government in Saigon.

Two State Department analysts suggested that Mr. Thieu's resignation would not automatically lead to negotiations. They said the Communists were not likely to accept a cease-fire until the Saigon Government was fully revamped and American military support was ended completely.

Aid Request Stands

Meanwhile, the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said that President Ford still hoped Congress would approve his request for \$722-million in emergency military aid to Saigon and \$250-million in humanitarian assistance.

"The United States expects to be working with the new Government," Mr. Nessen added.

Mr. Kissinger told the House committee today that the outcome of Mr. Thieu's resignation could not be predicted and might take many forms, and that it would take a few days to see what was happening.

The authoritative officials said that the Administration's policy change from support of Mr. Thieu to neutrality was similar to attitude taken previously toward Lon Nol, the former Cambodian President.

The Administration put out the word, the officials said, that the personalities involved would not in themselves constitute obstacles of any kind to a settlement.