

NYTimes

France Urges New Talks
To Carry Out
'73 Accords

Paris Issues Statement

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Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 21—The French Government appealed urgently today for a quick resumption of negotiations to carry out the 1973 Paris agreements on Vietnam, accompanied by a cease-fire covering all South Vietnam.

The statement, issued by the spokesman for President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said France was "naturally ready to do all in its power" toward the application of the Paris agreements.

Careful checks in Paris produced no evidence that any direct contacts had yet been made between the Saigon Government and the Vietcong or between the United States and the North Vietnamese.

Nguyen Xuan Phong, who heads the South Vietnamese Embassy here, was asked whether any direct contacts had been made with the Communist side. "Not yet," he replied. "The important word is 'yet.'"

Mr. Phong was scheduled to

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return to Saigon for consultations later this week, but he said his trip now was uncertain and he was awaiting instructions. "I may be more useful staying here," he said.

Various South Vietnamese exiles who consider themselves candidates for the "third component" in the three-part National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord provided for in the Paris agreements but never established, have been in touch with representatives of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government here recently.

All of them have been given the same statement of the Vietcong's policy—willingness to negotiate with a "sincere" new Saigon administration but refusal to name any specific individuals as acceptable or, apart from Nguyen Van Thieu, who resigned from the presidency today, as unacceptable.

Statement Issued

The Provisional Revolutionary Government issued a three-point statement when word came of Mr. Thieu's resignation. It demanded an end of

"all military and other United States interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam" and replacement of the "Nguyen Van Thieu clique" by an "administration which really wants peace, independence, democracy and national concord and which will seriously apply the Paris agreements."

The third point appeared to be a threat to proceed with a battle for Saigon if the first two demands are not met.

"If the United States does not really respond to the legitimate demands and seeks to undertake maneuvers upon maneuvers to deceive public opinion and continue its present policy in South Vietnam, nothing can be settled and it must then assume full responsibility," the statement said.

This was taken by neutral Vietnamese here as a reiteration of the Vietcong position that Mr. Thieu's departure alone is not enough to make a negotiated settlement possible. It was felt that there must also be a full American withdrawal and a government of what Thich Thien Chau, an important Buddhist exile, called "new men who don't belong to United States planning."

There was no immediate reaction to the French Government's appeal, which paid "tribute to the sense of duty" shown by Mr. Thieu in resigning.

The French statement included "an urgent call to all interested parties for everything to be started without delay for the opening of negotiations" and formation of the projected National Council of National Reconciliation and Command.

It also said that "the search for a political solution" should be "accompanied by a return to a cease-fire over all of the South Vietnamese Republic."

Later, the Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues said in a radio interview that France was "constantly" involved in trying to promote negotiations through diplomatic contacts as well as through the Elysée Palace statement.

None of the Vietnamese sources available in Paris believed that Vice President Tran Van Huong, to whom Mr. Thieu handed over the presidency, could succeed in forming a viable Saigon government. Similar skepticism was expressed

about the chances of Tran Van Lam, a former Foreign Minister and now president of the Senate, who is constitutionally next in line.

Role for Minh Favored

Nguyen Van Con, one of the many claimants to speak for the "third force" that favored neither the Thieu regime nor the Communists, said that a possible solution was a provisional Saigon government including both Gen. Duong Van Minh, who has Buddhist support, and Nguyen Van Huyen, a former Senate president, who has Roman Catholic support.

Bui Khien Thanh, spokesman for the Vietnamese Socialists, said word has been sent to Saigon urging that "since the situation must be resolved on a political basis, it would be very inadvisable to replace Thieu with a military man."

Mr. Thanh said that to organize a civil administration that could win confidence, the Socialists were urging consultations among "the spiritual leaders of our country"—the leaders of the Buddhist, Catholic, Hoa Hao and Cao Dai religions in Vietnam.