

APR 23 1975

SFChronicle  
**Saigon Asks**

**For New**

**Peace Talks**

**Saigon**

The new South Vietnamese government said today it is prepared to enter into serious peace negotiations with the Viet Cong and intends to give the Communists a share of power in Saigon.

A communique from the foreign ministry issued today proposed new peace talks on the basis of the Jan. 27, 1973, Paris agreement, with the Viet Cong entering into a coalition government to prepare for national elections.

South Vietnam "stands ready to resume the negotiations on all issues within the framework of the Paris agreement including the establishment of a National Council for Reconciliation and Concord," the communique said.

The council, as envisaged by the Paris agreement, would be made up of members of the Saigon government, the Viet Cong and the so-called "third force" loyal to neither side.

The Viet Cong delegation in Paris later rejected the proposal and said "The proposal fools no one and will hardly help the Americans out of their defeat."

The Viet Cong statement said new South Vietnamese President Tran Van Huong was "only a puppet and part of a game manipulated by the Americans to keep the Thieu clique without Thieu, continue a policy of neocolonialism, sabotage the Paris agreement and interfere with the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people."

Saigon's offer, approved by new President Tran Van Huong, made no attempt to blame the Communists for the deteriorating military situation.

It called for the resumption of peace talks in Saigon and in Paris and an immediate cease-fire.

It was the first overture to the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong since the resignation Monday night of President Nguyen Van Thieu. Similar offers were made by Thieu, but the Communists rejected all of them, saying they would only deal only with an entirely new Saigon government.

A.P. & U.P.