

VIETNAMESE REDS APPEAR TO REBUFF TRUCE AND TALKS

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In Reactions to Resignation
of Thieu, They Insist U.S.
Cut All Aid for Saigon

PARIS URGES CEASE-FIRE

Hanoi Makes Public Names
of 3 Pilots Killed in War
and Listed as Missing
NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 22—North Vietnam and the Vietcong responded today to the resignation of Nguyen Van Thieu as South Vietnam's President by insisting that the "only way out" for the Ford Administration was to stop all involvement in South Vietnam, including military aid.

In commentaries and statements in Hanoi and Paris, the Vietnamese Communists said that the United States must "abandon the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and not just the person of Nguyen Van Thieu."

The response, which United States officials said was not unexpected, fortified the view here that the chances that Hanoi would agree to a cease-fire and negotiations were slim.

They said they would have been surprised if the Communists, now within striking distance of Saigon, had agreed to a cease-fire and negotiations with essentially the same officials who had served Mr. Thieu.

Talks Believed Unlikely

Some officials believed that the Communists were unlikely to negotiate with any Saigon Government except one ready to agree to what essentially would be capitulation.

To bring about such a political development in South Vietnam, Saigon would probably have to be close to military defeat and this might involve stepped-up military pressure, some officials said.

In a separate development, North Vietnam made public the names of three American pilots killed during the Vietnam war as long ago as 1965 and listed by the United States as missing in action.

Information on the three was sent last week to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, in response to his requests.

The three were Comdr. Jessie Taylor Jr., Maj. Crosley James Fittan and Capt. Ronald D. Perri.

An aide to Senator Kennedy

Continued on Page 16, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

said that he did not attach particular political importance to Hanoi's announcement of the names. He said that North Vietnam probably had wanted to appear humanitarian and keep lines of communication open to Mr. Kennedy.

During United States involvement in the Vietnam war, Hanoi made lists of prisoners known through Mr. Kennedy, beginning in 1970.

In a television interview on CBS last night, President Ford said that the United States had been exploring "negotiating opportunities" with a number of governments but that no one knew with certainty what the North Vietnamese intentions were.

He said that in the last few days the North Vietnamese seemed "anxious to move in very quickly for a quick take-over" of Saigon, but that in the last day, "there seems to be a slowdown."

The American diplomatic effort consisted of asking third parties to use their influence on Hanoi to bring about a cease-fire and, it was hoped, negotiations with Saigon.

French Urge Cease-Fire

There have been no direct contacts with North Vietnam, but a high official said "they have no doubt about our position." These inquiries have not yielded any indication so far of willingness on Hanoi's part to negotiate.

For the moment, the Ford Administration believes that Hanoi is deciding how it wants to end the war, militarily or politically.

If the decision is for military action, Hanoi must choose a direct attack on Saigon or a more gradual encirclement.

A political decision involves a choice between direct negotiations with Saigon or pressure for changes in the Saigon Government to achieve a regime acceptable to Hanoi.

In Paris, Foreign Minister

Jean Sauvagnargues called in North Vietnamese and Vietcong representatives today, urging them to agree to a cease-fire now that Mr. Thieu had stepped down.

According to French officials, Mr. Sauvagnargues, whose Government has undertaken a peace initiative, said that an attack on Saigon would be "catastrophic for everybody."

"Now that President Thieu's departure has been realized the pressure on the ground must be halted to prevent a military escalation," he said to reporters.

The Vietcong's chief representative in Paris, Pham Van Ba, said that Tran Van Huong, the new President of South Vietnam, "is not Nguyen Van Thieu but he is his brother," implying that the Communists saw no reason to alter their position.

At the White House this morning, Mr. Ford discussed the Vietnam situation with Congressional leaders. Several left the session with the view that the Administration regarded Saigon as all but lost.

The estimate of the intelligence community here has been that the Communists are more likely to press their military advantage than top for any negotiations at this point.

A Minority Viewpoint

This is not a completely unanimous view in Washington. Some State Department aides believe that the North Vietnamese have not yet made up their minds on what to do.

In this minority view, the Communists may be weighing all options, including the possibility of agreeing to a brief cease-fire to allow the evacuation of Americans and others as a gesture to world public opinion.

It is also assumed here that the Communists may be waiting to see what happens in Saigon.

Political experts believe that Mr. Huong is only a titular

leader, and that a new cabinet will be appointed perhaps under a new premier — possibly Defense Minister Tran Van Don—that might be able to deal with the Communists.

Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary for East Asian Affairs, briefed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on developments in Saigon.

Javits Sees Hope for Talks

After the meeting, Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, said "there is real hope for negotiations" for an end to the war. He added that negotiations were under way between "political groups" in Saigon for a government capable of negotiating.

In addition to the naming of a new premier, some observers in Saigon believe that President Huong, who is 71 and physically infirm, might be succeeded by former Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, the president of the Vietnamese senate, who is regarded as a moderate.

But the question here is whether any of these leadership changes would be sufficient to satisfy the Communists when they are so close to a military victory.

The Saigon Government has virtually no leverage on the Communists except the ability to grant legitimacy to a new Communist-oriented government.

This might be enough, some officials here believe, to entice the Vietcong into a new round of negotiations, with their forces on the outskirts of Saigon giving them considerable influence on any Saigon government.

The United States has been urging negotiations primarily to achieve a cease-fire, although there is no certainty that the Communists would agree to a cease-fire during any talks.

Throughout the lengthy Vietnam negotiations starting in May, 1968, there were no cease-fires except during holiday periods until the Paris accords were signed in January, 1973.