

Thieu Vows Protest Crackdown

Saigon

President Nguyen Van Thieu vowed yesterday to "beat to death" those of his fellow countrymen who called for "immediate peace, in surrender to the Communists."

The South Vietnamese President spoke at a military ceremony at Cao Lanh in the Mekong delta, honoring troops who participated in the South Vietnamese operation in Cambodia since March 20.

Thieu, has been speaking out strongly recently against demonstrations and disturbances by students, war veter-

ans and other opponents of the government.

"We cannot have peace overnight, and we are not going to accept peace at any price," the President said. "There must be peace with conditions, and that peace will come with the strength of our army, the determined anti-Communist spirit of the government and the people.

"I am ready to smash all movements calling for peace at any price because I am still much of a soldier," said the President, who was a career soldier and a lieutenant general in the Army be-

fore running for the presidency in 1967.

In recent weeks the government has been embarrassed by localized but repeated marches, rallies, strikes and other evidence of disaffection on the part of students, disabled war veterans, workers, and others.

DEMANDS

The workers have been demanding higher wages, the disabled veterans have been building squatter dwellings on sidewalks and on public land, while students have organized peace rallies and demonstrations in public places.

The government has alternated between soft persuasion and strong-arm tactics of tear gas and police truncheons.

It would appear now that the President has decided to take action against those whom he regards as disturbers of law and order. On the afternoon of the President's speech, national police chief Col. Than Van Hai gathered police chiefs at his headquarters and instructed them to use "strong measures, including bayonets and bullets," to smash all demonstrations, "at any price."

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