

NYTimes version filed POWs

Thieu's Call for Bombing to Go on

Saigon

President Nguyen Van Thieu, in a major speech, has said that to save South Vietnam the United States must "keep up relentless bombing" of North Vietnam for another six or seven months. But he raised apparent doubts about Washington's willingness to go on bombing at the same intensity.

Though the speech was made nearly two weeks ago, its potential diplomatic and military impact received no international publicity at the time — largely because the government issued only a synopsis and vaguely worded translation of the address, which was delivered in Vietnamese.

"There is only one way to force the Communists to negotiate seriously," Thieu said in the key portion of the speech, "and that consists of the total destruction of their economic and war potentials. We must strike at them continuously, relentlessly, denying them any moment to catch their breath."

ISSUE

Then, on the issue of the firmness of the American commitments, he said: So it all depends on the determination of our allies. If our allies are determined, peace will be restored in Indochina. If they lack determination, the Communists will revert to their half-guerrilla, half-conventional warfare, and the war will go on in Indochina forever."

Hospital Strike in Bombay

Bombay

Hospital officials sent home 4000 patients yesterday, most of them suffering from tuberculosis, because the hospitals are not able to provide them care in the face of a two-day-old strike by 90,000 city employees.

The strike started after the city refused raises and bonuses for city workers, including nurses and other workers at municipal hospitals.

Social workers and home guards were sent out to try to clean up piles of garbage building in the streets because the sanitation workers are also on strike.

Bombay has a population of six million.

United Press

"similar to the stalemate in 1968 for former President Johnson."

QUESTION

Then, again raising the question of the American commitment, Thieu said, "Whether or not the Communists can achieve their objective, whether or not they can be successful in their dark attempt, will depend on the way the incumbent president deals with the problem."

It is not known whether there is some difference of opinion between Saigon and Washington over continuing the bombing of North Vietnam at its present intensity. There has been no suggestion in the daily air war communiques that the number of raids might be tapering off.

Many foreign diplomats here think, therefore, that Thieu is simply worried that Mr. Nixon, in a bid for votes to insure his re-election, might relax or even halt the

Thieu said he thought another six or seven months" of heavy bombing would be enough to destroy North Vietnam's economy and war machine and force Hanoi to accept a ceasefire with international guarantees over all of Indochina, not just in Vietnam.

At another point in the speech, he said that the North Vietnamese offensive launched March 30 was aimed at creating "a stalemate" in the war that would cause President Nixon to lose his bid for re-election —

bombing to win some kind of localized ceasefire before election day in November.

AREA

Thieu made clear in his speech, as he has in the past, that a cease - fire would have to include Laos and Cambodia — where the North Vietnamese maintain staging areas and supply routes — to be acceptable to his government. He also insisted that a cease - fire would have to provide for effective international supervision.

Thieu's speech, significant both for its extreme hard-line tone and its questions about Washington's support, was given at a graduation ceremony August 1 at the National Defense College in Saigon for senior officers who are usually headed for promotion to general.

It was a prestigious function, with foreign diplomats and other dignitaries present — including Ellsworth Bunker, the American ambassador, and General Frederick C. Weyand, the commander of American forces in Vietnam.

UNCLEAR

Thieu spoke from notes rather than a text, and the simultaneous English translation for foreigners was largely a paraphrased summary. The foreigners left, as one diplomat put it, "not terribly clear about what he had said."

The government news agency issued a synopsis which noted Thieu's call for continued bombing but missed the questions about the U.S. commitment and thus missed the speech's broader implications.

The American embassy has declined to comment on the speech. Privately, American sources say their impression is that the speech was primarily for local consumption. Its hard-line tone was tailored for its Vietnamese audience in general and its military audience at the defense college in particular, and was therefore not surprising.

The Americans also saw nothing unusual in the questions raised about Washington's commitment, viewing these as part of the speech's call for a maximum effort against the Communists.

The Americans suggested also that if Thieu wanted to address himself to Washington, he would not choose a semi-extemporaneous speech as his vehicle. "If it was an attempt to get something across to the Nixon administration," one American source said, "it wasn't very effectively done."

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