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Nixon's Control of Troop Cuts

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President Nixon has the final responsibility of American troop withdrawals from South Vietnam but he closely consults with President Nguyen Van Thieu on his decisions, the Florida White House said yesterday.

Thieu said in a Saigon news conference Thursday that the final say on withdrawal of American forces from the war zone rests with him.

Asked to clarify the Thieu statement, Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said the South Vietnamese president was apparently referring to the consultation and close coordination between the U.S. and his government on the continuing "drawn down" of troops from Vietnam.

"We consult with the South Vietnam government and continue to consult with them" on troop withdrawals, said Ziegler. "That I'm sure was what President Thieu was referring to."

"The final responsibility of redeployment of U.S. troops is for President Nixon to decide," he said.

United Press