

# SAIGON PLEASSED BY COMMUNIQUE

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Aide Believes No Deal Was

Made 'Behind Our Backs'

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 28—"We felt at ease," said a senior official of the South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, describing his colleagues' initial reaction to the Chinese-American communique from Shanghai.

"The communique seemed to indicate that both sides had to agree that no negotiated settlement of the war was in sight," the official continued. "That is a comfort to us, because it means that they were unable to make a deal behind our backs."

Although the South Vietnamese Government has not yet made an official statement on the communique issued by President Nixon and Premier Chou En-lai, the general reaction seems to be cautious and favorable.

"We wished the United States had been as strong in the Indochina issue as in the Korean issue, where it explicitly stated its close ties and strong support of the Republic of Korea," the Foreign Ministry official said. "But aside from that, the communique does not show that the United States has changed its position in any way about the Vietnam issue."

## Thieu in Nhatrang

President Nguyen Van Thieu has not met with Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker since the communique was issued, but he went today to Nhatrang, on the central coast, where he met with senior military commanders and predicted a Communist offensive in July and August in the northern military regions.

Mr. Thieu said that the Communists would try to prove the failure of Vietnamization and to defeat President Nixon in the American elections this fall, "because President Nixon helps South Vietnam fight the Communists." He did not talk specifically about the communique from Shanghai. American officials here believe the South Vietnamese Government's reaction will be favorable.

The Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, was with Thieu in Nhatrang and was reported to be preparing a statement about the communique, which is expected to welcome the position taken by the United States.

President Thieu is scheduled to be briefed next weekend by the Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern and Pacific Affairs, Marshall Green, who accompanied Mr. Nixon to Peking, but Mr. Thieu has sent an adviser, Hoang Duc Nha, to the United States anyway to try to find out how South Vietnam fared during Mr. Nixon's discussions in China last week.

## Attention on Moscow Trip

Attention here is now being focused on Mr. Nixon's trip late this spring to Moscow, which supplies the North Vietnamese with most of their arms. An article in the Government paper Tin Song today bore the headlines: "United States, China maintain their respective positions on Indochina." But an editorial said "the Indochina war will only be finally settled between the United States and the Soviet Union," a somewhat ambiguous statement that reflects nevertheless a basic helplessness felt by most Vietnamese about their ability to determine their own fate.

An article in the opposition newspaper Dien Tin, which supports the retired General Duong Van Minh, said "the Peking summit marked the start of a new era, and Messrs. Nixon and Chou En-lai have played the role of pioneers. But for us Vietnamese, we wonder why the United States should continue to intervene in the internal affairs of South Vietnam while the principle of people's self-determination has once again been restated in the joint communique." The article was accompanied by an unflattering cartoon of President Nixon with the Chinese Premier.