

Thieu Foe in Exile Suggests New Regime

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PARIS, Sept. 6—A former Saigon legislator who escaped after being sentenced to prison, said here today that anti-Thieu groups would form a non-communist provisional government if the United States withdrew support for President Nguyen Van Thieu.

The former legislator is Ngo Cong Duc, who was also president of the Saigon Publishers Association and director of Tin Sang, a newspaper ordered closed last February. Now a refugee in Sweden, Mr. Duc said at a news conference that opposition forces were growing in South Vietnam in the face of recently intensified political repression. *

He listed a number of religious, professional, women's, students' and labor organizations that he said were agreed on a four-point peace program. Mr. Duc said he had had no contact with the Vietnamese Communist delegations in Paris and would not unless "conditions were favorable."

Call for Thieu Ouster

By that, he appeared to mean the withdrawal of United States forces and the ouster of President Thieu. That was the first point in his program.

The second was creation of a provisional government. Third was a cease-fire and "settlement of all military questions." The final point called for elections.

The points were somewhat changed from a program Mr. Duc proposed two years ago, and seemed to reflect a tendency of the Saigon opposition to move closer to the Communists as their struggle with Mr. Thieu is sharpened.

But Mr. Duc, a 38-year-old Catholic from the Mekong delta, said that unlike the National Liberation Front, his movement would never fight with arms. He was not clear on whether they would accept Communists in a transitional government.

Shift in Program

Mr. Duc's previous program specified withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops as its first point and a cease-fire as its second. Point three was the creation of an interim government specifically described as neutralist.

He ran for re-election to the National Assembly last October,

when Mr. Thieu was the only candidate for president, but was defeated in a race that provoked widespread charges of police interference and corruption. The winner is the brother of Mr. Thieu's personal secretary.

Since then, Mr. Duc said, his house and his newspaper were bombed, his car was burned, and he was beaten. After five days in prison and a sentence of three years, he managed to escape and flee the country. Of 600 prisoners in the jail at Vinhbinh, his constituency, Mr. Duc said he found while there that 500 had been jailed for political reasons. He put the total number of political prisoners in South Vietnam now at 200,000.

He Sees No Settlement

According to Mr. Duc, recent official American remarks about an impending settlement are window-dressing to fool public opinion. He said he did not believe there would be any chance for agreement unless of the United States "stopped supporting Thieu."

There was a noticeable bitterness in Mr. Duc's attacks

against the United States Government, compared with the milder tone of his expressions before he left Vietnam. He said

he spoke only for noncommunists, and disagreed with the Communists on many things.

He quoted a Vietnamese Catholic priest as having said, "The origin of all our miseries, all our suffering, is the American presence. Nguyen Van Thieu is only the means, the tool."

Mr. Duc, who was granted political asylum in Sweden, said he would like to debate United States policy with its supporters "but alas in the name of the state leader of the free world," he said, he was refused a visa.

* "Saigon Decrees End of Elections on Hamlet Level,"
Craig Whitney,
NYTimes 7 Sep 72,
filed Indochina.