

Saigon Repeats Ban on Coalition

Saigon

South Vietnam reiterated yesterday its outright rejection of a Communist proposal that a tripartite coalition government be established in Saigon.

The latest Saigon rejection was apparently in response to rumors originating in Paris and Washington that a peace settlement is near.

Publication of the Saigon rejection followed a meeting yesterday between South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu and United States Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

SPECULATION

The subject of Bunker's discussion with Thieu was not disclosed. There was some speculation, however, that Bunker had called on Thieu to reassure him that the U.S. has not concluded a deal with North Vietnam running counter to Thieu's interests.

Presumably speaking for the national government, the Saigon City Council published its denunciation of the Hanoi peace plan in the

form of a proclamation in the government news agency, Vietnam Press.

PROPOSAL

The proposal involved, which the Communists put forward September 11, provides for creation of a government one-third of which would consist of members named by the present Saigon regime, one-third appointed by the Communists and one-third made up of outside elements, including politicians currently living in exile.

The proposal specifically bars Thieu from continuing in office.

In another matter, the Saigon government charged yesterday that Communist troops killed "hundreds of inhabitants" of the villages of Nan Gan and Duo Quang in the embattled province of Quang Ngai last Friday.

In one of the incidents, Saigon charged, the Communists locked a group of women, children and old people in a house, which was then blown up, killing 48.

N.Y. Times Service