

CEASE-FIRE STUDY IN  
SECRET SAIGON TALKS

# Nixon Advisor

SFXaminer OCT 4 1972  
Huddles With

# Thieu, Aides

By Larry Green

SAIGON — (CDN) — Maj. Gen. Alexander Haig, President Nixon's deputy national security adviser, held an extraordinary four-hour meeting with South Vietnam's national security council today to discuss allied positions at the Paris peace talks, reliable informants said.

Haig and his staff of four Asia experts left immediately after the previously unscheduled meeting for Washington.

U.S. Embassy officials declined to comment on the meeting although other sources said allied terms for a cease-fire were among the major topics discussed.

The meeting was the longest session in a series of secret consultations between the United States and South Vietnam that began about two months ago. It was the first to directly involve key South Vietnamese officials, leading to speculation that the future of the present Saigon government also was discussed.

Attending for the South Vietnamese were President Nguyen Van Thieu; Vice President Tran Van Huong; Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem; Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam; Thieu's foreign affairs adviser, Nguyen Phu Duc, and the President's private secretary, Hoang Duc Nha.

## Bunker Attends

Haig was accompanied to the meeting by U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and John Negroponte, a former member of the U.S. Embas-

sy staff here and one of the key Vietnam experts with the U.S. National Security Council.

Haig originally was to leave Saigon yesterday after three days of discussions with Thieu, Bunker and the

—Turn to Page 6, Col. 2

—From Page 1

U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. Fred C. Weyand.

His delayed departure and meeting with South Vietnam's ruling elite may indicate a disagreement between the United States and the Thieu government over bargaining positions at Paris.

## Thieu Position

Thieu obliquely has suggested this in a series of recent speeches in which he stressed that "nobody can negotiate for the Vietnamese."

In an address to South Vietnam's general assembly Monday, Thieu said: "Every domestic political solution ... (in) the South must be

approved by the present constitutional, legal republic of Vietnam government and by the South Vietnamese people.

"Only the present government is competent to discuss and approve any domestic political solution for the South and no one has the right to do it in its place."

In the Byzantine world of Asian politics that is interpreted as a warning to both North Vietnamese and American negotiators.

Haig, meanwhile, spent yesterday at the U.S. Command's "Pentagon East" headquarters here engaged in an elaborate analysis of maps and field reports indicating what areas of South Vietnam the government and Communists control, sources said.

He also met with top intelligence analysts in what one source said was a review of cease-fire potentials.

During Haig's visit his four-man staff fanned out among South Vietnam's provinces sampling public opinion in an effort to determine the level of support Thieu has among the people and the impact of the current offensive on the rural population. They also interviewed a number of senators and deputies.