

## NIXON REJECTS CEASE-FIRE

Thieu Says Hanoi Offered a Truce

# Bid Told To Viet Officials

## 3d Kissinger Thieu Parley

Examiner News Services

SAIGON — President Nguyen Van Thieu told South Vietnamese legislators that President Nixon rejected a North Vietnamese offer of a cease-fire before the Nov. 7 U.S. presidential elections, members of the National Assembly said today.

Assemblyman Danh No said Thieu told them about the offer last night after he met for five hours with Henry Kissinger.

There was no official word on the Kissinger - Thieu talks, from either the South Vietnamese or American officials.

Speculation is rife, particularly as to whether Kissinger was pressuring Thieu to take a diminished role in South Vietnam.

No said the North Vietnamese proposed a cease-fire prior to the election, followed by establishment of a three-part coalition government.

No and other legislators said the Communists wanted the truce now to avoid "heavy military pressure" from the U.S. if Nixon wins.

Thieu said he himself vetoed the coalition with the Communists and that Nixon then turned down the cease-fire, the lawmakers said.

The legislators said Thieu did not give any specific reason for Nixon's reported rejection of the cease-fire. Thieu said only that he would not accept the coalition government.

The lawmakers said Thieu told them a cease-fire be-

fore the election would be advantageous to the North.

—Turn to Page 20, Col. 1

—From Page 1

Vietnamese now, since after the election Nixon would have four more years to negotiate an end to the war.

Agence France-Presse reported that the United States had informed Thieu that Hanoi and the Viet Cong had made sufficient concessions and that their proposal for a tripartite coalition should be accepted. The report was unconfirmed.

Another French correspondent reported to his paper he had learned from a "usually well informed source" that elements of a cease-fire would be proclaimed throughout Indochina within the next 10 days.

Correspondent Marcel Giuglaris of the mass circulation newspaper France Soir said the cease-fire would be based on an agreement by all the parties concerned, and not be a decision by one side alone.

Other South Vietnamese sources who reported that a cease-fire proposal was figuring in the talks said it probably called for only a partial truce as a "good will" gesture that could lead to further agreements.

"It is impossible to have any cease-fire that could be enforced, even by international body," said one South Vietnamese official.

"It might mean an end to bombing and mining of the North and perhaps an exchange of prisoners, but it would be impossible to guarantee any kind of a cease-

fire in the South, where the fighting is going on."

Kissinger, Thieu, members of the South Vietnamese National Security Council and American officials met again today for 3½ hours.

It marked the second day the U.S. has fielded a prestigious group of diplomats to confront Thieu and the National Security Council.

Attending with Kissinger were U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker; Deputy Ambassador Charles Whitehouse; the Army Chief of Staff, Gen Creighton Abrams, and two U.S. National Security Council staff members.

Another indication a coalition may be under discussion was the surprise presence of the U.S. ambassador

to South Korea, Philip Habib, who helped draft the present South Vietnamese Constitution, which bars Communists from the government.

No details of the meetings were given to newsmen. An official South Vietnamese statement today said "both sides continued discussion of the general situation and the Paris peace talks."

The newspaper Tin Song (Live News) reported today Kissinger would meet tomorrow with South Vietnamese political leaders. The newspaper is partially financed by Thieu's nephew and personal secretary Hoang Duc Nha, who was present at the meetings with Kissinger.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said "we are not going to be commenting about the discussions or the negotiations."

Thieu has adamantly rejected any coalition government proposal that includes the Communists. He has said such a government would turn South Vietnam over to the Communists.

Depoty Nguyen Van Thong, chairman of the house internal affairs committee, said Thieu told the legislators that the internal conflict with the Viet Cong must be settled by the South Vietnamese government. Thieu said no outside government can "interfere" with the settlement, including the North Vietnamese "and the allies."

About 40 members of the National Assembly attended the two-hour meeting last night at the presidential palace. Opposition members said they boycotted the session because they feared Thieu would claim later that he had their support for his position.

Meanwhile South Vietnam escalated its campaign against the Communist-proposed coalition government. Banners and posters appeared throughout Saigon today denouncing the concept of a coalition and the government also began a series of radio and TV editorials denouncing the coalition government concept.