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Vietnam-Newsweek Lead A231

NEW YORK AP - Time and Newsweek magazines reported Sunday that the United States and North Vietnam have reached agreement on a peace settlement in Vietnam under which South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu would remain until replaced by a caretaker government.

Time said, "Hanoi has agreed to negotiate directly with the Thieu government while the South Vietnamese president is still in power, which it has said that it would never do."

The magazine commented that this part of the United States-North Vietnamese agreement meets a demand by President Nixon that he not participate in the downfall of Thieu whom Nixon has promised never to abandon.

Both magazines said a ceasefire would be in effect while the negotiations went on.

According to Time, once a ceasefire is established, three committees would be formed:

One—an expansion of the International Control Commission to supervise the ceasefire.

Two—a composition of representatives from the Saigon government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government maintained by the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam. This committee, consisting of Communist, neutralist and Thieu government factions would create the caretaker government to replace Thieu.

Three—a committee composed of the United States, North Vietnam, the Thieu government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

It would work with the International Control Commission which is made up of India, Canada and Poland—"arbitrating who controlled what territory at the time of the ceasefire, negotiating the withdrawal and the release of the prisoners of war and the other large over-all problems of ending combat in Vietnam."

Newsweek said that after the ceasefire and a short-lived interim government, there would be a national election supervised by France in South Vietnam.

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Vietnam-Newsweek

NEW YORK AP - Newsweek magazine reported Sunday that the United States and North Vietnam have reached an agreement to end the Vietnam war that provides for a cease-fire and short-lived interim government, followed by a national election supervised by France.

According to the account in Newsweek's Oct. 31 issue, a weak executive is expected to be central to a new constitution for South Vietnam. Gen. Duong Van "Big" Minh was listed as a logical candidate.

The magazine said it was still unresolved whether the interim government in Saigon would have two or three segments.

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu wants only two parties - his supporters and the National Liberation Front. Hanoi wants a third faction of neutralists included, according to the article.

Newsweek said whatever its composition, the interim government would function as a coalition committee, probably consisting of 18 to 30 members.

A smaller executive committee would run day-to-day affairs. Under the agreement negotiated in Paris between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, the magazine said, neither Thieu nor any covert Communist would be eligible to serve on the executive committee.

It would have the same proportion as the coalition committee and be chaired by an individual acceptable to all sides.

Speculation that a settlement of the conflict could be near heightened over the weekend with continued meetings between presidential aide Kissinger and Thieu and the statement by North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong, in an interview with Newsweek, that negotiations "are in an extremely important phase."

Thieu has emphasized repeatedly his opposition to a coalition government and other concessions to the Communist side since Kissinger arrived in Saigon from meetings with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris.

On Saturday, Time magazine reported that American and North Vietnamese negotiators agreed in principle on the settlement in Paris last week.

Time said it had been told the Nixon administration wants to announce the settlement before Election Day, Nov. 7, although the cease-fire to be supervised by an enlarged International Control Commission might not be implemented by then.

The cease-fire and halt in the air war would be followed by talks on withdrawal of U.S. forces and release of American prisoners of war, the magazine said.

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