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Thieu Must Go: Hanoi

PARIS — (CDN) — The Viet Cong spokesman here insisted today that South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu "must go."

Ly Van Sau, spokesman for the Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation here, disagreed with Hanoi as reported agreement to Thieu's remaining in a new coalition government.

North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong gave a vague reply when asked by Newsweek magazine whether Thieu could stay on.

"Thieu has been overtaken by events," Dong said. "And events are now following their own course."

Asked in an interview to explain Dong's meaning, Sau said, "It means the policy of Thieu is completely overtaken by the strong opposition of the South Vietnamese

people who want a government of national concord."

Other reliable sources said Hanoi has offered to let Thieu take part in a three-part coalition, despite PRG

Sau pointed out that Thieu is "absolutely against a peaceful settlement based on a three-part, national concord government."

The PRG official charged the Saigon leader is "increasing the physical liquidation of prisoners of war from our side as well as of political prisoners in South Vietnam."

This may be a key point. Hanoi Premier Dong said: "All military and civilian detainees, not only Americans, on both sides must be released at the same time."

Sau said there are 300,000 political prisoners now held by South Vietnam. He referred to news reports of

guards opening fire at Phu Quoc prison May 6 and Oct. 11.

He repeated that the PRG peace plan calls for Thieu's resignation. "Because Thieu is adamantly opposed to the three-segment government, we believe that his quitting power is a very essential element of any settlement," Sau said.

"It means — Thieu must go," he summarized.

The PRG official charged that President Nixon "is playing a very dangerous game.

"Either he is really willing to end the war quickly for the benefit of the Vietnamese and American people, and to bring back the captured military men, or he is only playing a game to decisive public opinion," Sau said.