

OCT 25 1972

# Thieu Opposed To Coalition, Hints at Truce

By Lee Lescaze  
Washington Post Foreign Service

SAIGON, Oct. 24—South Vietnam's President Thieu tonight took an uncompromising position towards a political settlement of the Vietnam war, but said that there may be a standstill cease-fire soon.

In a radio and television address, Thieu made clear his continuing opposition to a coalition government in South

Vietnam and indicated there was wide disagreement between himself and White House adviser Henry Kissinger during their discussions here.

His two-hour speech was studded with attacks on the Communists and when he said that the fighting may soon stop he charged that the Communists will violate a cease-fire in order to strengthen their political position.

[In Paris, the North Vietnamese peace talks delegation issued a statement saying Thieu's speech constitutes "a new proof that he obstinately opposes peace and national concord, that he is extremely bellicose."]

"The search for peace still continues," Thieu said in reference to his talks with Kissinger, "and as of now no settlement has been reached or signed."

He called the talks "very useful" but stressed that he will not yield to any pressure. "Nobody can do anything on our behalf or force us to follow their decisions," Thieu said.

"The mission of Dr. Kissinger is to probe the Communist position and then tell it to our government," Thieu said. "Then he tells our stand to the Communists." He added: "What we do not accept, Dr. Kissinger will tell them (the Communists) faithfully."

In an apparent reference to recent press stories saying that the United States is trying to convince Thieu to endorse a settlement already agreed upon by Washington and Hanoi, Thieu said: "Our main ally will never betray us and cannot betray us. Those who are circulating false news are lackeys of Communists, colonialists and false pacifists."

He insisted that only such lackeys called him an obstacle to peace. "I am not an obstacle to peace," the president said.

"Peace has been our wish for 16 years and a cease-fire must certainly come first when a peace solution is reached," Thieu said. "The question is whether when a cease-fire and peace come will our people have freedom and independence and the right to determine their fate or will it be determined by the Communists?"

The president claimed that the Communists only want a cease-fire because they are weak militarily and are seeking to get an agreement before the American elections.

"Now the Communists insist the United States agree to a cease-fire because their forces have been destroyed and they are defeated on every front and because they hope that candidate Nixon will be easier to deal with than a re-elected President Nixon," Thieu said.

"We do not fear nor try to avoid a cease-fire if it is in line with our position," he said. Claiming that the Communist spring offensive has been a failure and that U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and the mining of its harbors has badly hurt the Commu-

See THIEU, A18, Col. 1



Associated Press

Vietnamese villagers flee along Highway 13 north of Saigon in an attempt to avoid recent heavy fighting.

## THIEU, From A1

nists, Thieu added: "Sooner or later, the Communists will have to beg for a cease-fire."

Whether this comes before the U.S. elections or in two or three months, he said, the South Vietnamese position will be the same.

That position, as Thieu outlined it tonight, calls for respect for the 1954 Geneva agreement which divided Vietnam into North and South. All North Vietnamese troops must be withdrawn from South Vietnam and the National Liberation Front (Vietcong) must abandon fighting and participate in the political life of South Vietnam.

In effect, those provisions would give the Communists nothing that they did not have in 1954 except the right to "participate" in elections run by the Saigon government.

Thieu's speech was made at the same time that Kissinger met with Mr. Nixon and Secretary of State William Rogers to discuss the American position following Kissinger's latest talks with Thieu and Hanoi negotiator Le Doc Tho.

When Thieu promised his people that the United States would never betray South Vietnam, he was quoting (deliberately or not) a pledge Mr. Nixon has often made.

Thieu's indication that a cease-fire may be near repeated statements he has made in recent days to South Vietnamese political leaders and government officials.

He appeared to be saying that he would not oppose a ceasefire, but it is uncertain whether the Communist side will be interested in halting the fighting while Thieu continues to reject their proposal for a three-sided coalition government.

### Long Speech

Thieu also spent a large portion of his unusually long speech describing how easily a cease-fire could be shattered, and he made it clear that his government will remain in control at all levels during the cease-fire as he envisions it.

The Communists, Thieu charged, have many "schemes to sabotage the cease-fire." But Thieu said he has given orders to his military and police to guard against Communist sabotage.

"Even if a cease-fire is declared, all laws of the Republic of Vietnam will still be in effect and will be applied seriously, with no change. Thus, any attempt to create disorder or rebellion will be nipped in the bud," Thieu said. The present South Vietnamese laws forbid Communist political activity and give Thieu power to rule by decree.

After a cease-fire is in effect, the president said, he will react swiftly to any Communist violations.

"If they fire pistols, we will respond with rifles. If they shoot rifles, we will respond with machineguns. If they fire machineguns we will respond with bombs," Thieu said. "If

they violate it once, I will fight them 10 times."

Thieu said he had captured a document which proved the Communists planned violations including the assassination of government officials, mortar shellings of populated areas and attempts to incite the people to riot.

"Not the United Nations nor the International Control Commission nor 100 foreign nations can prevent the sinister Communist scheme. Only we can prevent it and we must crush any Communist activities in sabotaging the cease-fire," the president said.

In explaining his opposition to a three-sided coalition, Thieu appeared to substantiate recent press reports that the United States and North Vietnam had reached general agreement on a three-stage settlement that would begin with a cease-fire following by an interim rule by representatives of the three sides South Vietnamese government, Communist and neutralist) followed by an election of a new legislature within six months.

### Communist Schemes

"The Communists have a scheme to take over South Vietnam within six months of a coalition through new elections," Thieu said.

Instead of a presidential system, Thieu said, the Communists wanted a parliamentary government. He did not explain why the Communists would gain control through parliamentary elections, but he said they would not win a presidential election—even if he were not a candidate—"because the people are not so naive as to vote for a Communist."

He said the three-sided coalition had to be rejected because "in South Vietnam there is no third force." People had mentioned South Vietnamese living abroad as a third force, he continued, "but such exiles have no following in South Vietnam and they are the people who live off money from Communists, colonialists and false pacifists."

Thieu also called the North Vietnamese premier a liar, referring to a recent interview Premier Pham Van Dong gave to Newsweek magazine in which he pledged that there would be no Communist attempt to impose a Communist government on South Vietnam following a coalition and no bloodbath. Thieu said "no one believes him."

"If a (Communist-controlled) coalition is created, within less than one year not 5,000 nor 50,000 nor 500,000, but five million people will be killed by the Communists," Thieu said.

### Thieu's Appeal

Thieu appealed to political parties, religious organizations and other groups in South Vietnam to unite in a stand against coalition and to win the political battle.

"The question when a cease-fire comes," Thieu said,

"is whether we will win or the Communists will win."

In that spirit of competition, Thieu urged everyone to acquire South Vietnamese flags and be ready to raise them when a cease-fire is announced. "The more flags there are, the better it is. The bigger the flags are, the better it is," Thieu said.

He said that Communist cadres all are equipped with several Communist flags and also carry paint cans with which they will obliterate the painted flags which the Thieu government has ordered South Vietnamese to have on the outside of their houses.

### Hanoi Denounces Thieu's Address

PARIS, Oct. 24 (UPI)—The Hanoi peace talks delegation said today President Thieu's speech proved he was against peace and was working as an instrument of U.S. policy.

The statements "constitute a new proof that he obstinately opposes peace and national concord, that he is extremely bellicose," delegation spokesman Nguyen Than Le said in a statement.

"As we have indicated many times, the United States government uses Nguyen Van Thieu as its zealous mouthpiece in the policy of prolonging the war and obstructing serious negotiations aimed at a rapid, peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese problem," Le said.

The North Vietnamese spokesman said, "the government of the United States must shoulder the entire responsibility for the obstacles in negotiations and for the prolonging of the war."

Le said the United States "thought it could hide behind

Nguyen Van Thieu to escape its responsibilities, but this maneuver proved clumsy . . ."

### Kosygin Supports Hanoi Peace Terms

From News Dispatches

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin reiterated support for

Hanoi's peace terms during a Kremlin dinner last night honoring visiting Premier Giulio Andreotti of Italy.

"There is a political platform for achieving a fair settlement in Vietnam," Kosygin said. "It is the proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South

Vietnam (Vietcong) and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Hanoi). The Soviet Union supports those proposals."

Kosygin also reiterated Soviet pledges of continued assistance to Hanoi "until the aggression is brought to an end."