

Outline of Understanding

New details of the tentative outline of an Indochina settlement became available yesterday. The main points of the settlement would include the following:

Cease-fire—A cease-fire in place in South Vietnam. This would leave the Saigon Government, headed by President Thieu, in charge in most of the country, including main populated areas. The Vietcong, backed by 145,000 North Vietnamese troops who would remain in the country, would continue to control scattered areas. All American bombing and mining would stop and all American forces would be withdrawn, including advisers. There would be a prisoner exchange. Separate cease-fires would be negotiated in Laos and Cambodia. Rules on American and North Vietnamese military aid to South Vietnam would be set. Mr. Thieu has called for withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops but is expected to yield on that.

Controls—Two types of control groups to guarantee the cease-fire in South Vietnam have been discussed. The first would involve mixed commissions of Vietcong, Saigon representatives and neutralists. In addition, an international body is discussed, with France, Canada, Poland, Britain and Japan mentioned as possible members. But above all, the United States, the Soviet Union and China would be expected to back the accords and not provide military equipment that could disrupt the accord. A major Communist violation, such as a new invasion, could be met by renewed American bombing from carriers or from Thailand, Washington sources said.

Political Structure—Mixed political commissions, composed of elements from the Vietcong, the Saigon Government and neutralists, would be set up to work out a new political order during the cease-fire. These commissions would order nationwide elections and see to a new constitution and new government. But the present Saigon Government could probably retain most of the political weight under the new structure.

Timing—Final agreement has not been reached, and many details remain. The United States and North Vietnam are closer to agreement than either is with South Vietnam. But despite Mr. Thieu's public rejection of any sharing of power with the Vietcong, the United States is optimistic that he will join in the accord soon. American sources predict an accord in two to six weeks.