

Thieu Attacks Plan As a 'Surrender'

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Saigon

President Nguyen Van Thieu today denounced the draft peace agreement on Vietnam as "a surrender of the South Vietnamese people to the Communists."

In a speech broadcast over the national radio this morning, Thieu attacked the agreement in the strongest denunciation he has yet

made of its terms.

"The draft agreement which would have been signed on October 31 is only a cease-fire to sell out Vietnam," he said.

"In South Vietnam there is not only one Nguyen Van Thieu who is an obstacle to this agreement to surrender, but there are 17½ million South Vietnamese who are opposed to such an agreement."

The draft agreement has been acknowledged by both the North Vietnamese, who broadcast a summary of it last week, and by Henry A. Kissinger, who negotiated it in Paris at the beginning of last month.

Thieu's strong statement did not reject any kind of cease-fire or negotiated settlement but mentioned several objections his govern-

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Third, he said, "They have grandiose talk about the self-determination of the people of Vietnam while they are imposing a dictatorial three-part regime in the south from the top down to the local level in the south and wipe out our constitution."

Such "grandiose talk," Western observers here note, is not in the draft accord, which provides for a three-sided National Council of Reconciliation and Concord to encourage and preside over further discussions between the opposing sides in the south.

But Thieu went on to say, "The Communists from North Vietnam are interfering in bilateral negotiations between the government of South Vietnam and the National Liberation Front."

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The speech, apart from the specific references to the "draft agreement which would have been signed on October 31," was vague and somewhat confusing as to whether Thieu was referring to public Communist demands for a tri-partite coalition government or to the terms of the draft agreement.

He has still not disclosed to the South Vietnamese people what the terms of that agreement are, and the government seized newspapers that gave full accounts of Kissinger's discussion of it last week.

Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, said last week that there remain to be worked out with the North Vietnamese some details in the draft agreement to make it acceptable to Saigon. The North Vietnamese have stopped short of breaking off negotiations even though they had pressed for the Americans to sign the agreement yesterday.

Thieu said, "The government of Vietnam and myself ask the North Vietnamese Communists to come to serious negotiations to sign a peace and cease-fire agreement."

He spoke on the occasion of National Day.

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ment has to the U.S.-North Vietnamese draft agreement.

The first of these is that it does not require the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops now in South Vietnam. In his speech today Thieu estimated their number as "300,000 to 400,000." American military intelligence sources here estimate the number at half that many.

"They (the North Vietnamese) are perfidious as they ask the Americans and allies to withdraw their troops . . . but they do not mention the withdrawal of their own troops," Thieu said.

Second, he said, "They are perfidious because while referring to Indochina they refer to three countries, but in reality there are four — Cambodia, Laos, and North as well as South Vietnam. By saying that, they reserve for themselves the right to be in South Vietnam and keep their troops here."