

Chou: Early Signing of Cease-Fire Pact Doubtful

PEKING — (AP) — Chou En-lai said today he has been in contact with the United States and North Vietnam over the stalled cease-fire talks, and although he's still hoping for early signatures, "the news is not so good."

The Chinese premier told a group of British newsmen Nguyen Van Thieu had objected to seven of nine points in an agreement

drafted secretly by Americans and North Vietnamese.

Chou quoted the South Vietnamese president as saying if he did not put his own signature to that agreement "there will be no peace."

In Touch With Nixon

It was understood Chou has been in personal touch with President Nixon, although he gave no details of

his Washington contacts.

Nor did he disclose which seven points of the Washington-Hanoi draft agreement were being resisted by Thieu.

Chou at one point asserted his belief that the United States was not leaning sufficiently hard on Thieu in order to get him to accept an agreement.

Nevertheless, he said, the Chinese hope an agreement will be signed within a few days.

Exchange

The exchange with reporters went like this:

Q.—What news have you on the Vietnam situation?

A.—It's not so good. President Thieu is raising a great hue and cry at the present time. He has said he does not agree with seven points and he has said if he does not put his signature to the agreement there will be no peace.

Q.—Do you think Americans are not pressing him sufficiently?

A.—To a certain extent that is so.

Q.—But do you feel there still may be a signing in a few days?

A.—I hope so.

At that point Chou referred to his contacts with Washington and Hanoi without elaboration, but made it clear the contacts had been in the context of a search for peace.