

U. S. Giving Saigon New Planes In Attempt to Win Over Thieu

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Administration officials disclosed today that the United States had decided to provide the South Vietnamese Air Force with hundreds of additional jet fighters, transports and helicopters above previously programmed levels.

Officials in various government departments said this was the latest in a series of moves over the last several days aimed at coaxing President Nguyen Van Thieu to accept a modified cease-fire plan soon.

Other recent steps, they said, included the following:

¶The United States has decided to press North Vietnam to remove more than three divisions, or roughly 35,000 troops, from the two northernmost provinces of South Vietnam in return for a "proportional reduction" in the size of the South Vietnamese army.

¶Washington now insists that an international supervisory force be in place in South Vietnam when the cease-fire becomes effective, as Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, observed last week. What he did not mention, officials say, was that previously the United States had stipulated only that the four countries that would provide peace-keeping monitors meet within 30 days of the truce to organize their effort.

Concessions by Hanoi

The officials said that they believed Mr. Kissinger had wrested important concessions from North Vietnamese representatives during his 19th and 20th meetings with them. But after talking with President Thieu and American officials in South Vietnam and the United States, they said, it was felt that modifications would have to be worked out in the tentative plan to make the truce more acceptable and workable.

Reports from Saigon today said that the United States had just flown in five big C-130 four-engine transports and turned them over to the South Vietnamese Air Force.

Sources in Washington said

that it had not previously been intended to supply the South Vietnamese with C-130's, but that they were now expected to get two squadrons totaling about 32 aircraft.

Efforts are underway to get these and hundreds of other aircraft into South Vietnam before the cease-fire becomes effective.

The Communist side is also attempting to increase stocks of war matériel before a cease-fire is declared. As has previously been reported in The New York Times, North Vietnam in recent days has been rushing tanks, artillery, ammunition, food and medicine into South Vietnam across the demilitarized zone and along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. North Vietnamese troops have also reportedly been moving from Cambodia into the southern part of South Vietnam.

Under the tentative arrangements outlined by Mr. Kissinger, both sides will be permitted to replace weapons in South Vietnam on a one-for-one basis, but not add additional or significantly better equipment.

Other New Planes

Among the other newly programmed United States aircraft now planned for shipment to South Vietnam, officials said, are these:

¶Two squadrons or 48 F-5A air-defense fighters in addition to three squadrons planned for delivery in 1973-75, for a total of about 125 aircraft. Officials said that some or all of these planes would later be replaced with the advance F-5E when it becomes available.

¶Three squadrons, or about 72 A-37 jet close-support fighters.

One or two squadrons of A-1 propeller-driven close-support fighters. There are normally about 18 in a squadron.

¶Two or more squadrons of UH-1 helicopters, in addition to one squadron previously planned. There are normally about 33 helicopters in a South Vietnamese squadron.

Officials said that, in the case of F-5A jet fighters, which are in short supply in the United States, several countries had

been approached in hopes that some sort of barter arrangement could be worked out to provide these planes quickly.

The A-1's and helicopters would come from American units in South Vietnam and Thailand, they said. The A-37's would come from Air Force reserve units, with promises of later replacement from new production.

Negotiations a Factor

"Bear in mind," one official said, "that all this is contingent on the progress of negotiations. These assets can be used to pressure both North Vietnam and South Vietnam."

He said there had been a short delay in weapons deliveries to Saigon after President Thieu's recent rebuff of Mr. Kissinger in Saigon. But then, he added, the decision was made by the White House to send additional planes to increase Mr. Thieu's ability to contend with enemy forces, even if substantial numbers of North Vietnamese troops remain in his territory.

But if Mr. Thieu becomes "unreasonable," the official continued, a slowdown might again become necessary.

The official pointed out that the fact that additional sophisticated weapons are headed for South Vietnam might also serve as an inducement to Hanoi to relent on some points to bring a cease-fire—and an end to further weapons shipments—sooner rather than later.

On the matter of North Vietnamese troops inside South Vietnam—Mr. Kissinger said they numbered about 145,000—the United States and South Vietnam previously had insisted they all be withdrawn in any truce. Last week Mr. Kissinger said this could be negotiated later between the two Vietnams.

But Administration officials say that in Paris, the North Vietnamese at one point had offered to withdraw some of their troops on some proportional basis as South Vietnam demobilized part of its million-man army.

Washington officials feel this offers an opportunity to press Hanoi to remove more than the three division that entered the



Washington Star-News/Walter Oates

Henry A. Kissinger with Mrs. Tran Kim Phuong, wife of Saigon's Ambassador to the U.S., during a celebration of National Day at the embassy.

South during the spring offensive in return for reductions in Saigon's forces.

They are trying to persuade President Thieu that troops that are demobilized would be free to join the national police force, to become hamlet and village chiefs, and otherwise to bolster Saigon's ability to pace the "shadow war" for control of the countryside that is expected once the truce ends big battles between major forces equipped with tanks and artillery.

Saigon Gets New Planes

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 2. The United States

has so speeded up the delivery of arms, helicopters and planes to South Vietnam in advance of a possible cease-fire that today the South Vietnamese Air Force got planes it was not prepared for—four-engine C-130 transports.

The fat-bellied turboprop aircraft landed at Tansonnhut airport this afternoon, flown by United States Air Force reserve crews from the United States. At least two of them with yellow-and-red Vietnamese flags painted on the tails were parked on the apron this afternoon, but United States military authorities in Saigon were pretending they knew nothing about them.

"We have nothing on it" the spokesman for MACV, the Military Assistance Command Vietnam, said in answer to queries. The South Vietnamese Air Force has two air wings of transport planes, and up to now has had only piston-engine C-123XN's, C-7's C-119's and C-47's. South Vietnamese pilots and mechanics are known for their resourcefulness but, up to now, no one has told them they would have to learn to fly the complicated C-130's. The C-130 has been the workhorse of the war, delivering cargo and troops all over South Vietnam for years. It can carry more than 36,000 pounds of cargo and 92 soldiers.