

U.S. Borrows

Jet Fighters

To Aid S. Viet

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (UPI)

— The Pentagon said today it is borrowing jet fighters from South Korea, Taiwan and Iran to beef up South Vietnam's air force quickly. It also said it is sending the South Vietnamese previously unscheduled C-130 transports.

A Defense Department spokesman, Jerry Friedheim, said the purpose behind the program was to "enhance the possibilities" of a cease-fire in Vietnam and stability after the fighting stopped.

Friedheim gave no numbers of planes involved but other sources said the goal was to rush approximately 100 F-5s and 32 C-130s to Saigon before a cease-fire.

Friedheim said F-5 fighters were being provided by

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South Korean, Nationalist China and Iran. He said deliveries already had started.

The fat-bellied C-130s are being provided partly from U.S. National Guard units, Friedheim said.

The move was interpreted as a "carrot-and-stick" approach toward both Saigon and Hanoi.

Toward Saigon, there was the threat the air power buildup would be cut off if President Nguyen Van Thieu refused to go along with cease-fire terms.

Toward Hanoi there was the threat that unless a cease-fire agreement was completed soon, South Vietnam's air power would increase.

South Vietnam already has one squadron (18) of

F-5As and several training model F-5Bs. The new buildup, sources said, is designed to give the South Vietnamese five such squadrons.