

Thieu Proposes 3 Peace Pacts

SAIGON — (UPI) — South Vietnamese government sources said today that President Nguyen Van Thieu has made a counterproposal on ending the Indochina war with a series of three peace treaties.

The sources said Thieu had asked the United States to relay his proposal to North Vietnam, presumably through Henry A. Kissinger.

The sources said Thieu's proposal foresees three pacts; one signed by North Vietnam and the United States; a second by North and South Vietnam, and the third by South Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

Each treaty would be negotiated separately, the sources said. The new package envisions three sets of direct, bilateral negotiations among all four participants in the war.

Denial

But an official spokesman for the South Vietnamese foreign affairs ministry denied the proposal had been made. He termed the report "misleading" and "speculation."

The sources said the stage at which U.S. troops would be withdrawn from South Vietnam was not specified in the Thieu proposal.

Presumably, however, the Saigon-Hanoi pact would call for "foreign" troop withdrawals if Thieu's proposal is accepted. Since his election in 1967, Thieu has called for bilateral pullout of American and North Vietnamese troops.

Thieu's counterproposal did not directly reject any of the clauses in the nine-point draft treaty to end the war negotiated last month by Kissinger and North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris.

Insistence

That treaty, however, called only for the signatures of the American Secretary of State and the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister. Thieu has insisted on signing any peace pact, and his new plan is a departure from the draft treaty.

The sources said Thieu proposed, in effect, a wind-

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ing down of the war rather than an immediate end. His stand, the sources said, envisions:

- A treaty between Hanoi and Washington under which the United States would halt its bombing and naval blockade of North Vietnam in exchange for the release of American prisoners of war and an accounting for U.S. troops missing in action.

- A second pact signed by Saigon and Hanoi, setting an end to the main-force war between South and North Vietnam, with terms for the cease-fire to be settled by negotiation.

- A third treaty between South Vietnam and the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government. This treaty would end all hostilities and settle political problems in the South, again by negotiation.

Thieu's position in the past has been based on the Washington-Saigon peace proposals of last Jan. 25, which called for an election in South Vietnam with Viet Cong participation and the resignation of Thieu one month before the election.