

U.S. Beside You

--Nixon to Thieu

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President Nixon told South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in a message broadcast by Saigon radio yesterday, that "the American people will continue to stand together with the people of your country." He called for a peace that would be "fair . . . for everyone."

The message coincided with a Hanoi charge that the U.S. was "dragging" on the war and a Viet Cong communique saying the United States was planning to leave U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam as well as shipping the Saigon regime more weapons.

The Viet Cong delegation to the Paris peace talks said the United States is setting up a "permanent corps of military advisers disguised as civilians to take command of the Saigon army." The statement denounced American efforts to build up South Vietnam's military inventory as "acts of war."

"These are acts of extreme gravity which uncover the intention of the Nixon administration to deceive American and world public opinion with words of peace while undermining efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement," the statement said.

North Vietnam, in a broadcast from Hanoi, said the urgent buildup of war supplies "definitely rejects Nixon's and other U.S. officials' statements that peace in Vietnam is within reach."

U.S. military sources in Saigon, say the United

States is secretly making plans to substitute civilian advisers for American troops who would have to be withdrawn if the draft agreement made last month is signed.

The Pentagon confirmed reports that it is hastily shipping warplanes and other equipment into South Vietnam, even asking some U.S. allies to supply F5 Freedom Fighter jets that are in short supply in the United States.

Although Defense Department spokesmen refused to discuss figures, U.S. military sources here said the South Vietnamese air force will have received as many as 400 new aircraft by the middle of this month.

The increase will make Saigon's air force the third largest in the world with more than 2000 planes and helicopters, the informants said.

Hundreds of armored vehicles, including tanks and armored personnel carriers, also are being flown into South Vietnam in the massive airlift.

The still-unsigned draft

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agreement worked out by Hanoi and Washington last month would cut off any further buildup of the armed forces already in Vietnam and would require the withdrawal of all American troops here within 60 days.

Negotiations are now going on behind the scenes through third countries to try to clarify points in the U.S.-Hanoi draft peace agreement, a source close to the South Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks said yesterday.

"This does not exclude the possibility of direct contacts between the parties," he added.

France and the Soviet Union were indicated as among the likely third party go-betweens.

The sources said that in its present form the draft agreement "is unworkable."

The South Vietnamese sources commented: "Before we can proceed further

in the negotiations we must know exactly what North Vietnam has in mind and understands the many points of the draft agreement."

In Saigon, the South Vietnamese radio yesterday released the text of the Vietnamese National Day letter from President Nixon to President Thieu which pledged "The American people will continue to stand together with the people of your country."

The Nixon message was delivered Nov. 1 — National Day — but was not made public until it was broadcast on Saigon radio Friday night. 3 NOV

"In the name of the American people I would like to express again our deep admiration for the valiant struggle for freedom by your country and our firm confidence that your country's just cause will triumph," the radio broadcast reported Nixon's letter said.

"In the present extremely difficult phase, I would like to confirm to you that the American people will continue to stand together with the people of your country as our two countries seek a just and lasting peace," it said.

The statement followed a report by Vietnamese government sources saying Thieu has proposed an alternative peace plan to the Hanoi-Washington draft cease-fire agreement.