

THUY BACKS U.S. ON TRUCE COUNCIL

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Asserts Saigon and Vietcong
Would Retain Powers in
First Stage of Cease-Fire

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PARIS, Nov. 10—Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's chief delegate to the peace talks here, said tonight that the Saigon Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government would remain intact "during the transition period" before new South Vietnamese elections.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse, Mr. Thuy gave added details about Hanoi's position on the political parts of the cease-fire agreement negotiated by Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, and Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo.

He answered questions that had been raised by Washington and Saigon on whether the three-part national council foreseen in the agreement would act as a disguised coalition government.

Kissinger Held 'Correct'

Mr. Thuy pointed out that the English text, as distributed by the North Vietnamese, as well as the unpublished version to which Mr. Kissinger has been referring, spoke of the council as an "administrative structure."

The Kissinger version is "perfectly correct," Mr. Thuy said. He added that the American-Vietnamese language experts who accompanied Mr. Kissinger had correlated the translations carefully and there was nothing to change, according to the interview.

The Saigon Government has said that the Vietnamese term used could mean "power structure," and therefore imply a government, and that clarification is therefore needed.

This is one of the points that Mr. Kissinger said required further negotiation with Hanoi's

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representatives before the cease-fire agreement could be formally signed and put into effect.

Hanoi had never contended that the ambiguously defined council would become the basis of a coalition government. But Saigon has seen the shadow of a concession it has consistently refused to make in the establishment of a "national concord" body composed of equal representation of his regime, the Vietcong and "neutralists" to be chosen half and half by each of the two sides, in South Vietnam.

According to the interview, Mr. Thuy said that the first task of the council would be to activate the "two administrations," Saigon and the Vietcong, to carry out the clauses agreed to by Washington and Hanoi.

Details of Cease-Fire

These clauses take up many details of the cease-fire, organization of "three-part" councils at various levels, and reduction of forces on both sides, a subtle but implicit reference to withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops in phase with the demobilization of Saigon's large forces.

The second task of the top-level national council would be to organize elections, Mr. Thuy said in the interview.

However, Mr. Thuy denied

reports that in this period Communist forces would regroup in "specified places," as Saigon has urged. "It will be an on-the-spot cease-fire," he said. "The troops of all parties will stay in their positions at the moment of cease-fire. There are no regroupment zones."

There has been a clear difference in emphasis between the word from Washington and from Saigon about what needs changing in the Kissinger-Tho agreement.

Saigon does not accept the idea of a three-part council, because in effect it downgrades the South Vietnamese Government from "sole legitimate government" to an equal administration and a rival of the Vietcong for the right to speak for all South Vietnamese.

Washington has stressed "linguistics," which appears to blur the issue of the role of the council as an "administrative structure" or masked coalition government.

Mr. Thuy's statement tonight had the effect of supporting Washington over the objections of Saigon. It is not a minor matter. In an interview with The New York Times last weekend, Mr. Thuy listed among major United States concessions the recognition of the Vietcong as a Provisional Revolutionary Government to have equal status with Saigon, and abandonment of the claim that Saigon alone was the legitimate government.