

# Thieu, U.S.

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## Seen Closer On Draft Pact

SAIGON, Nov. 12 (AP) — U.S. officials indicated today that Washington and Saigon have narrowed their differences on a disputed draft agreement that would halt the Vietnam war and send American troops home.

Two days of talks between Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., President Nixon's special envoy, and President Thieu appeared to have cleared the way for a resumption of private negotiations with North Vietnam in Paris.

The U.S. embassy issued a statement on Haig's departure today saying the talks were "cordial and constructive" but did not elaborate. The statement was interpreted by some here to mean that progress was made toward resolving differences.

From Saigon, Haig flew to Phnom Penh for conferences with the Cambodian chief of state, Lon Nol, and to Seoul to meet with South Korea's president, Chung Hee Park, before returning to Washington to give Nixon a first-hand report.

South Korea now has more troops in Vietnam than the United States—37,000 versus 32,000. The draft proposal, if signed, also would require the Koreans to withdraw.

A feeling is growing among some U.S. officials in Saigon that a ceasefire is nearing, perhaps by the end of this month.

These officials disclosed for the first time that the United States had completed its contingency plans for the recovery of all American prisoners of war and for the withdrawal of all American troops within 60 days after the agreement is signed.

Thieu has emphasized that any bilateral agreement concerning the political shape of South Vietnam would be invalid without his signature, and this issue must be resolved between Saigon and the Vietcong.

Spokesmen for the U.S. Embassy said they did not know whether Thieu gave Haig a personal letter for Mr. Nixon. But it would be appropriate

for Thieu, to do so in response to a letter he received from Mr. Nixon, carried by Haig.

Mr. Nixon was reported to have made several points in his letter. One urged Thieu to accept a cease-fire as soon as possible, and another reaffirm that the United States would not attempt to impose a coalition government or a political solution on South Vietnam.

Haig's visit was viewed in Saigon as an effort to obtain an understanding with Thieu on several disputed points of the draft agreement, thereby clearing the way for Henry A. Kissinger to reopen his talks with the North Vietnamese in Paris.

South Vietnamese officials, giving "background" interviews to selected Western newsmen in recent days, have emphasized differences over the draft agreement between Saigon and Washington. The official Saigon Radio also reported differences.

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### HAIG, From A1

The interviews have been conducted on the basis that the officials not be identified. However, Hoang Duc Nha, Thieu's closest adviser who has sat in on meetings with both Kissinger last month and Haig over the weekend, was the source for one Washington newspaper's story that the differences were substantive rather than simply matters of language.

Nha also reportedly claimed

in the interview that Kissinger, in negotiating the agreement with Hanoi last month, had glossed over South Vietnam's insistence on a total withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops, and that Mr. Nixon and Kissinger had knowingly created a misleading impression about the nearness of a settlement just before the U.S. presidential election.

There has been some speculation here that Thieu is ready to make compromises, including the dropping of a demand for the withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam. There is no provision for such a withdrawal in the draft proposal, because Hanoi has refused to acknowledge publicly that it has any troops in the South.

In a commentary late tonight, Saigon Radio said the Communists must concede that they have 300,000 troops in South Vietnam, 90,000 in Cambodia and 70,000 in Laos and that all must be pulled back.

"This is not the time for anyone to bring up the question of saving face for the Communists," the broadcast said.

"Secret arrangements, secret understandings and unilateral moves will not resolve anything," it said.

The broadcast expresses appreciation of the aid South Vietnam was receiving from its allies but it reminded these allies that "We remain the masters of our land."

### Saigon Paper Reports

#### Secret U.S.-Hanoi Deal

SAIGON, Nov. 12—The United States and North Vietnam have come to a number of secret military deals that are not mentioned in the 20-page resume of the official nine-point cease-fire agreement, the semi-official newspaper Tin Song reported today.

The secret agreements provide for the simultaneous reduction of North and South Vietnamese forces, the method of applying a cease-fire throughout Indochina and the eventual withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops, the newspaper said.

Tin Song is run by one of President Thieu's principal advisers who has sat in on all the recent peace talks in Saigon.

Quoting well-informed South Vietnamese sources, Tin Song said Washington and Hanoi have agreed that North and South Vietnamese forces be reduced by 40,000 men within six months of a cease-fire.

For the North Vietnamese, who have never officially ad-

mitted that they have troops in the South, the withdrawal would be done discreetly as part of an "understanding," the newspaper said. It added that as a gesture of good will, the North Vietnamese have

undertaken to pull out some of their troops from the Quangtri northern front even before a cease-fire.

In exchange, South Vietnam is to "deactivate" three of its divisions. The presidential palace has already denied that its shock troops, crack marines and paratroopers, would be among these divisions.

On the method of applying the cease-fire which would be for the whole of Indochina, a compromise has been reached between the Vietcong and Hanoi position of a cease-fire in place, freezing military positions, and the Saigon demand that anti-government forces be regrouped into a relatively small number of well-defined areas, the paper said.

The compromise is that the anti-Saigon forces would maintain their present "leopard-spot" positions with a view to withdrawing from them later to consolidated positions.

In South Vietnam, international surveillance of the cease-fire would be carried out by Canada, Poland, Hungary, and Indonesia, while in Cambodia and Laos the peacekeepers

would be Canadians, Poles and Indians—the three members of the present International Control Commission for Indochina set up under the Geneva peace accords of 1954.

Phnom Penh and Vientiane may still call upon a fourth power to help assure the effectiveness of the control, Tin Song said.

Exiled Cambodian leader Prince Sihanouk has said he would only accept the three original FCC members. A new grouping had to be established for Vietnam because of Saigon's insistence that India be eliminated.

(Washington Post correspondent Jonathan C. Ransal reported from Paris that Washington has promised Hanoi to release all political prisoners and detainees held in South Vietnamese prisons no later than 90 days after a ceasefire. Randal quoted sources close to the Communist peace talks delegation as saying that a verbal U.S. commitment was part of the Hanoi Washington draft cease-fire accord and that the Americans had agreed that Saigon would honor it.

(The purported existence of this verbal commitment raised the possibility that other similar Hanoi Washington arrangements existed on other matters, most notably dealing with the withdrawal of Hanoi

forces from the South despite official U.S. disclaimers of any unwritten understanding, Randal said.

(Political prisoners and detainees, whose numbers run into hundreds of thousands, are known to include many

Vietcong cadres and a sizeable proportion of the leadership of the nationalist opposition usually described as neutralist. Their continued incarceration would represent a major source of comfort to the Thieu government, which is worried

about organizing the political struggle against its adversaries after a ceasefire.

(Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong representative at the Paris talks, appeared to have been reminding the United

States of its promise to have the prisoners released when she told a news conference Oct. 30 that Washington had a "responsibility" to free these prisoners.)