

# SAIGON AIDE SAYS ALLIES ARE CLOSER ON TRUCE ACCORD

But Foreign Minister Adds  
That Some Problems Still  
Require 'Clarification'

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PULLOUT IS KEY ISSUE

Haig Returns From Mission  
to Vietnam and Reports to  
President and Kissinger  
NYTimes

By FOX BUTTERFIELD

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 13—Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said today that the visit of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. had brought the United States and South Vietnam "closer together" on a draft peace settlement. Mr. Lam added that there were still some problems requiring "clarification" before Saigon would accept the accord.

The key problem, Mr. Lam told newsmen after making a speech to the Saigon Lions Club, was that the proposed settlement worked out by Hanoi and Washington did not provide for the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam.

[General Haig, returning to Washington on Monday, reported to President Nixon and Mr. Kissinger. The White House reiterated that even after Mr. Kissinger's next Paris talks with North Vietnam, "further consultations" would be required. Page 4.]

Full Pullout Asked

Mr. Lam's remarks were the first official South Vietnamese reaction of the two days of secret talks between President Nguyen Van Thieu and General Haig, who is chief deputy to Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security.

Mr. Lam confirmed published reports that the North Vietnamese had agreed to withdraw troops from the Quangtri area in the northern part of South Vietnam. However, Mr. Lam said, such a partial pullout "is not enough."

The Foreign Minister would not comment on whether South Vietnam would acquiesce if the United States and North Vietnam now went ahead and signed the draft accord without Saigon's final acceptance.

Mr. Kissinger and the North Vietnamese negotiator, Le Duc Tho, are reportedly scheduled to meet in Paris later this week for another negotiating session. Mr. Kissinger has said that he needs only one more session before signing the settlement.

## 'Quietly Surrendering'

Mr. Lam's brief talk with newsmen contrasted with the strongly worded speech he delivered to the Lions Club. He stressed that the issues remaining to be resolved were mostly matters of clarification.

In his speech, which according to one Vietnamese source was written before General Haig's visit over the weekend, Mr. Lam said that the nine-point peace plan "would really amount to quietly surrendering to the Communist side at the conference table what they have been unable to gain on the battlefield."

"Negotiations, yes. Capitulation, no," the Foreign Minister said.

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tion, no," the Foreign Minister said.

The differences between Mr. Lam's prepared speech and his remarks to newsmen suggested to some diplomats here the dilemma the Saigon Government faces as it comes under increasing American pressure to accept the peace agreement.

"Saigon has got to go on being tough in public to placate its hawks, who don't like the terms," one well informed diplomat commented. "But in private they must recognize they don't have much choice."

He suggested that President Nguyen Van Thieu might even publicly disassociate himself from a settlement in Paris, though in fact South Vietnam would still go along with the accord. "If the cease-fire breaks down after a month or two, then Thieu can always say I told you so," the diplomat added.

Mr. Lam's tough language in his speech was echoed to-



The New York Times

Tran Van Lam

day in the quasiofficial newspaper Tin Song, which said that "the recent negotiations with General Haig have not yet achieved any step forward."

Tin Song, which is often used to voice what the presidential palace wants known publicly, also said, "The difference of opinion between the Republic of Vietnam and the North Vietnamese Communists is still the same."

Mr. Lam's Lions Club speech was attended by the ambassadors from Britain, Japan, Australia and Thailand and the French consul general. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who had planned to attend, decided

at the last minute not to come, informed sources said. They gave no reason for Mr. Bunker's decision.

Answering a newsmen's question, Mr. Lam said of General Haig's visit, "I think we are closer together now." But he quickly added, "There are still some points to be made more clear." Mr. Lam spoke in English.

The Foreign Minister told newsmen that in addition to the problem of securing North Vietnamese withdrawal, Saigon also wanted to make sure the settlement guaranteed the re-establishment of the demilitarized zone between North Vietnam and South Vietnam and that the accord did not create a form of coalition government.

## Haig Stops in Seoul

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov. 13—Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. left for Washington today after an overnight visit here to brief South Korea's President, Park Chung Hee, on the impending Vietnam peace agreement.

The general met with Mr. Park for one hour and 25 minutes before departing at noon by a special plane.

Although it was not officially disclosed, it was assumed that they discussed the question of withdrawing 37,000 South Korean troops remaining in South Vietnam. Seoul had announced plans to start the withdrawal next month.