

HANOI TROOPS GET TRUCE DIRECTIVE NOV 23 1972

Forces Are Reportedly Told
to Observe the Cease-Fire
Scrupulously for 60 Days
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 22—American intelligence officials report that Hanoi has ordered Communist forces in South Vietnam, both Vietcong and North Vietnamese, to observe a cease-fire scrupulously for the first 60 days after it goes into effect and to refrain from all acts of vengeance, assassination and terrorism during that period.

American officials say the order was issued with the highest priority early this month.

[In Paris, negotiations on a cease-fire continued and sources close to the meetings gave the impression that they were proceeding slowly. Page 3.]

According to intelligence analysts who have studied captured versions of the Hanoi directive, it repeats earlier instructions to Communist troops to seize as much territory as possible the few days just before a cease-fire is signed. This is what the Communists apparently sought to do in the last week

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of October when they originally expected a peace accord to be signed.

But the order, addressed particularly to "our southern brethren," warns that there must be no violence after that except in self defense.

Rather, American officials say, the directive predicts that the Saigon Government will violate the cease-fire, arresting thousands of political opponents and fighting to win back lost territory.

While the directive does not specify what Hanoi will do after the 60-day limit, these sources report, it implies that Hanoi feels such violations by Saigon would give North Vietnam international sanction to restart the war.

There have been a variety of recent signs that President Nguyen Van Thieu's Government might provide such pretexts. His security police have drawn up long lists of opposition political figures who would be arrested when an accord is signed, some American officials believe, and the police throughout the country are known to have received instructions to arrest anyone who flies a Communist flag.

Drive by Saigon

In addition, Saigon has launched a public campaign to prevent Communist political activity after a cease-fire by establishing "people's anti-communist political struggle committees." Some 5,000 army and police cadets have been dispatched to villages to set up these committees.

Hanoi's directive ordering its forces to obey a cease-fire was considered so important, some American officials say, that in a departure from usual practice it was signed by Le Duan, the first secretary of North Vietnam's Lao Dong (workers) party. Orders to Communist troops in the South are ordinarily signed simply in the name of the Politburo.

Mr. Duan's signature on the order, these officials reason, may indicate that it was intended at least in part to re-

assure Communist troops and party officials that the failure to reach a peace settlement by Oct. 31 was only a temporary delay.

Allied officers feel there was undoubtedly some grumbling in Communist ranks because the widespread series of attacks—infiltrating hamlets and cutting highways—staged in the last week of October in anticipation of the truce-signing cost the Communists thousands of casualties.

Reprisals to Be Avoided

The directive makes it clear in strong language, American analysts say, that Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces must avoid all reprisals against Saigon Government officials, "even when they are flying the traitorous Government flag." The onus for violating the accord must be placed squarely on the Government, the order is reported to advise the Communist troops.

Through the first 60 days of the cease-fire, "all hatred is to be directed against the aggressor," meaning the Americans, but there is no call for acts of violence against Americans remaining in Vietnam.

Like most intercepted Communist materials, the document being circulated among allied officials in Saigon apparently is not the original order itself, but rather a reconstruction based on captured notes of officials who had been briefed on the directive.

This has created skepticism about some of the exact wording of the directive, but analysts say its over-all intent is not in doubt.

American officials feel that Communist discipline is good enough to insure that the order is generally obeyed, though there will certainly be exceptions. Previous Communist orders have frequently spoken of the need for vengeance and settling of "blood debts."

A high-level Communist order late in September, for example, which first advised officials about the impending breakthrough in the Paris peace talks, said: "Although with a ceasefire the big guns will fall silent, the small guns will remain in action and the elimination of cruel tyrants [a euphemism for assassination] will continue under other guises."

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