

# Thieu Aide Says Foe Is Snagging Talks

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**SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 24**—A close aide of President Nguyen Van Thieu said today that no progress had been made toward a peace settlement in the first four days of renewed secret talks in Paris between the United States and North Vietnam.

The aide, Hoang Duc Nha, said that the North Vietnamese were being stubborn and were making "unacceptable demands."

Mr. Nha is an adopted nephew of President Thieu and his influence in the Government far exceeds what would usually be associated with his title as press secretary and personal secretary. He said that his information was based on reports from South Vietnamese officials in Paris who have been in touch daily with Henry A. Kissinger, the American negotiator.

### Point to North's Reaction

Some United States observers suggested that Mr. Nha was describing the reaction of North Vietnam to South Vietnam's demand for certain modifications in the nine-point draft proposal made public by the North Vietnamese and the Americans in late October.

The principal South Vietnamese demand, enunciated repeatedly by President Thieu and his subordinates, has been that North Vietnam withdraw all of her troops from the South.

The North Vietnamese have never officially admitted that they have any troops in the South and thus there was no mention of such a withdrawal in the draft proposal. American officials say that there are about 140,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in the South and the South Vietnamese say there are about 300,000.

The South Vietnamese also insist that the North Vietnamese agree to a demilitarized or buffer zone between the two Vietnams and they are seeking assurance that a coalition government in the South is not part

of the final peace treaty. The South Vietnamese have said that, as they understand the draft proposal, a council would be established to supervise a general election after a ceasefire and would be in effect a coalition government.

Mr. Nha's comments were made in a conversation with South Vietnamese reporters, some of whom work for Western news agencies.

He refused to go into detail on the negotiations, particularly leaving unanswered the questions of what "unacceptable demands" the North Vietnamese had been making and how they had been "stubborn." A spokesman for the United States Embassy here refused to comment.

### Newspaper Quotes Thieu

The Secretary's comments were echoed in the lead article in Tin Song, the newspaper that he helps to finance and which is often thought to reflect the thinking in the presidential palace.

"Where will the negotiations go while the North Vietnamese Communists are still stubborn?" asked the final lines of the headline over the article.

The article said that President Thieu had had a special meeting with his senior advisers today and at one point had

said that "the North Vietnamese Communists are still stubborn and maintain their unreasonable requirements."

South Vietnamese officials reaffirmed today that the most important element to the Thieu government was the withdrawal of the North Vietnamese troops. After that, the officials said, they would expect agreement on the other points. The latest secret talks began in Paris on Monday.

### 3 From Saigon on Hand

The South Vietnamese have asked that they be included in the talks, but have thus far remained on the outside. In the meantime, the Saigon Government has sent three men to join its ambassador in Paris, Pham Dang Lam. They are Nguyen Phu Duc, President Thieu's security adviser, and the South Vietnamese Ambassadors to the United States and to Britain.

During previous secret peace talks, the South Vietnamese received a summary of developments after Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser for national security, reported back to Mr. Nixon. "This time," Mr. Nha said today, "our American allies immediately report to our representatives."