

Nixon, Thieu Envoy Confer Again

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon met today with South Vietnam's special envoy Nguyen Phu Duc at the White House to continue discussions on the Vietnam peace negotiations.

Duc also met this morning at the White House for the second time separately with national security adviser Henry Kissinger.

The White House also announced a meeting between the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Although the session with the Joint Chiefs was announced only moments before it got under way, depu-

ty press secretary Gerald Warren said it had been scheduled for some time to review the entire situation in South Vietnam.

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, his deputy secretary Kenneth Rush and Kissinger and his deputy, Gen. Alexander Haig, joined in the Joint Chiefs meeting before a blazing fire in Nixon's office.

The military chiefs in uniform displayed an array of stars and stripes and military decorations. Nixon smilingly noted there was "a lot of rank in this office."

"That's all we have,"

laughingly responded the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Adm. Thomas Moorer.

It was a rainy morning and after the heavy schedule of meetings, ranging from discussions on the budget to the Vietnam peace efforts, Nixon was scheduled to fly to Florida for a weekend stay.

Nixon and Duc, a special representative of South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu, met for 2½ hours yesterday. It was originally scheduled to last an hour.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House spokesman,

said the session was "a very detailed discussion, and a very frank discussion," but he refused to disclose the substance of the talks.

This attitude has marked the Administration's responses to all questions recently about the state of the peace negotiations.

Nevertheless, diplomatic sources in Saigon said Duc would propose a Nixon-Thieu meeting to reinforce the South Vietnamese view that no agreement should be signed that lacks a written pledge for North Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from the South.

Meeting with Joint Chiefs came before meeting with Duc - see NYTimes 1 Dec 72.