

## Saigon Talk

# Thieu May Ask Rule Extension

By Larry Green

SAIGON — (CDN) — South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu may ask for an extension of his near-dictatorial ruling powers when he addresses a special joint session of the National Assembly next Tuesday, government sources said today.

Thieu also may ask for special authority to negotiate and sign treaties with foreign powers and to declare war without the approval of the Assembly, thereby concentrating virtually all of its power in his hands.

At the same time, Thieu is expected to restate his hard-line opposition to the terms of the pending cease-fire agreement but may open the way for the United States and North Vietnam to sign a bilateral pact with South Vietnam's consent, the sources added.

Spokesmen for the Presidential Palace were unavailable to comment on the reports.

### Resignation

Political sources said there was a growing resignation within the Saigon government that a truce between the United States and North Vietnam was inevitable, despite South Vietnam's objections.

However, rather than sign any agreement negotiated by the United States which he has criticized repeatedly, Thieu is weighing the possibility of giving it his tacit approval, a move that would save him face in South Vietnam.

"The government has come to realize it cannot continue to resist," a Vietnamese political observer said.

The Tuesday speech will be Thieu's first public discussion of the war and the negotiations since he declared his hardline stand in a two-hour TV address last Oct. 24. Two days later North Vietnam revealed the terms of the nine-point agreement now being renegotiated in Paris.

### 3 Months

Sources said Thieu is likely to ask for a three-month extension of his special pow-

## SF Examiner DEC 8 1972 Flareup In Vietnam Fighting

SAIGON — (UPI) — The heaviest fighting in nearly a month raged the length of South Vietnam today but bad weather forced a steep cutback in U.S. air raids against North Vietnam, Allied spokesmen said.

The U.S. and Saigon commands reported 83 Communist - initiated attacks in the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m. today, the highest number since Nov. 12 when 87 were reported.

### Shells Only

Seventy of the attacks reported today were by shell-fire alone without troop contact.

The U.S. Command said 40 jet fighter - bombers flew missions against North Vietnam in the 24 hours ending at 5 p.m. yesterday, fewer than half the number reported Wednesday. Spokesmen said adverse weather conditions limited the jet strikes.

In addition, B52 bombers which fly above the weather flew only five missions in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam. But an additional 14 waves of B52s bombed in enemy - occupied Quang Tri province just south of the DMZ.

### 2 Goals

Their mission was two-fold: To destroy Communist supplies flowing south and to support South Vietnamese forces endeavoring to recapture as much of the province as possible before a cease-fire.

South Vietnamese marines northeast of Quang Tri City reported North Vietnamese gunners unleashed 1400 rounds of mortar and artillery shells against government positions yesterday. In minor skirmishing the marines reported killing seven Communists at a cost of two of their own men dead and 23 wounded.

ers, which are set to expire Dec. 28.

Thieu has been ruling by decree since late last June when the legislature voted him the extraordinary powers to decree laws dealing with the national security, defense, the economy and finance during the Communist offensive this year.