

# Thieu to Address Congress in Saigon

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 8—President Nguyen Van Thieu is preparing to address a special joint session of both houses of South Vietnam's National Assembly next Tuesday, authoritative Government sources said today.

In his speech Mr. Thieu is expected to ask for an extension of his six-month emergency powers, which expire Dec. 28, and to discuss the latest developments in the Paris peace talks, these Vietnamese sources said.

There has been speculation in Saigon that President Thieu might announce South Vietnam's willingness to accede to the draft peace accord worked out by Hanoi and Washington. Two days ago Mr. Thieu held long talks in the presidential palace with the President of the Senate, Nguyen Van Huyen, and the Speaker of the House, Nguyen Ba Can, during which he told them that most of South Vietnam's objections to the proposed settlement had been satisfied, one well-informed Government official reported.

## Truce Reported Acceptable

According to this official, Mr. Thieu told the two men that while he still had some reservations about the accord, Saigon would now be able to accept it. However, both Senator Huyen and Deputy Can were unavailable for comment today. They reportedly were meeting with other politicians and aides in preparation for next Tuesday's joint session.

American officials who follow the twists and turns of Saigon politics said they had no idea what Mr. Thieu might announce in his speech. "Any one's guess is as good as mine," said one usually knowledgeable American.

Mr. Thieu's special presidential powers, under which he has ruled by decree since last June, have enabled him to tighten Government controls over dissidents and the Saigon press without the consent of the National Assembly.

The controversial bill grant-

ing the presidential powers was passed by the Senate last June only after a group of pro-Thieu Senators slipped back into the Senate chamber late at night after Saigon's strict martial-law curfew had gone into effect. No opposition Senators were present.

However, two weeks ago the Senate passed by a large vote a resolution backing Mr. Thieu's opposition to the peace accord unless his major objections were met, most importantly that North Vietnam withdraw all its troops from the South.

Any attempt by Mr. Thieu to extend his emergency powers would run into stiff opposition, but whether opponents could defeat it is uncertain.