

S. Vietnam Aid Cut-Off Looms in Congress

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WASHINGTON — GOP

congressional leaders have told President Nixon that the failure of peace talks and renewed bombing of North Vietnam virtually assure a congressional cut-off of aid to President Thieu's South Vietnamese government.

The warning to the White House followed a news conference yesterday by Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), who noted that Nixon would no longer grant Thieu a veto over future U.S. efforts to

end the war.

"Everybody has overlooked the fact that Thieu will no longer have a veto," Javits said. Javits urged Nixon to halt the bombing of North Vietnam but said despite renewed air attacks there was still a chance of a negotiated settlement in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, a senior GOP leader said the White House had been told that the setback in the peace talks was certain to spark a bipartisan attack on Thieu.

"As it stands now, there is

no chance of Congress giving any more aid to Thieu," the GOP leader said.

Currently, the United States gives about \$2.4 billion a year in military aid and about \$300 million in economic aid to Saigon. Economic aid is being funded under a continuing resolution because of a deadlock that blocked approval of a foreign aid bill earlier this year.

The continuing resolution expires Feb. 28. The battle to cut off funds to the Thieu government could come then

if chances for a settlement remain remote. Military aid runs out in July.

But the showdown could come earlier if the Defense Department requests a supplemental authorization to cover expanded military aid to Vietnam and funds for renewed air attacks over North Vietnam.

In his meeting with newsmen, Javits illustrated the difficult position liberal Republicans find themselves in with the renewed Vietnam fighting.

While not wanting to at-

tack the Republican President, Javits at the same time must respond to voter hostility to the war in such places as New York City.

Javits appeared to be attempting to shift the blame from Nixon to Thieu.

In the presidential campaign, Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic candidate, repeatedly attacked Thieu as the major reason for continued U.S. involvement in the war.

Thieu has repeatedly attacked the proposed agreement between Washington

and Hanoi to end the war.

Now, the White House says that the lack of Thieu's signature will not prevent Nixon from agreeing with North Vietnam to end the conflict if it is in the best interests of the United States.