

-- U.S. Presses Massive

Raids

Demands On Hanoi And Saigon

Associated Press

Saigon

President Nixon has given both North and South Vietnam an "ultimatum" to sign a peace agreement, threatening Hanoi with continued bombing attacks and Saigon with a cutoff in economic and military aid, senior South Vietnamese officials reported today.

These top-level officials said General Alexander M. Haig Jr., Mr. Nixon's emissary, carried a personal letter from the President to South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu during his trip here Tuesday and yesterday. Thieu's reply is on the way back to Washington with Haig, the officials said.

According to the South Vietnamese officials, after Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, broke off their negotiations in Paris December 13 without reaching an agreement, Mr. Nixon gave North Vietnam 72 hours to sign an agreement or face a resumption of bombing and mining of its ports above the 20th Parallel.

Mr. Nixon waited for more than 72 hours but received no reply from Hanoi, the South Vietnamese informants said.

The mining was resumed last Sunday, the bombing Monday. 18 DEC

OFFICIALS

According to the officials,

Mr. Nixon told Thieu not to make any more separate peace proposals such as the one the South Vietnamese president made December 12 calling for an indefinite cease-fire beginning during the Christmas season, release of American and Vietnamese prisoners and direct negotiations between North and South Vietnam.

Mr. Nixon was reported to have told Thieu the proposal was untimely and would not

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help the U.S. peace effort. Mr. Nixon said he disapproved of it, the sources said. North Vietnam also publicly rejected the proposal.

At Key Biscayne, Fla., where Mr. Nixon arrived yesterday to spend the Christmas holidays, deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren would not discuss the Saigon reports, saying: "I'm not able to comment at all."

In Washington, the State

Department also declined comment.

In his letter, Mr. Nixon told Thieu he plans to force Hanoi to sign a fair peace agreement and predicted such an agreement would be concluded in the near future, the officials said.

According to the officials, Mr. Nixon told Thieu that if he refused to go along with the Nixon plan, the United States would terminate economic and military aid to South Vietnam.

Thieu then convened the South Vietnamese National Security Council to discuss the letter, and made a reply, the officials said. The contents of Thieu's letter were not disclosed.

ACCORD

Kissinger told a Washington news conference last

Saturday that the peace agreement was 99 per cent complete, but did not specify what the 1 per cent difference was.

The South Vietnamese officials said the 1 per cent is

a fundamental point of principle and involves Hanoi's recognition of South Vietnam as an independent state. These officials said Kissinger told Tho that the agreement must be reached on the basis that South Vietnam is an independent state and the North must agree in principle to recognize this and not attempt to intervene militarily after a cease-fire.

In another version of the Nixon letter, attributing his information to a source described only as a South Vietnamese government official, CBS reporter Ed Bradley said in Saigon:

"The source said Mr. Nixon's

letter carried the tone of a father of two quarreling youngsters, one being belligerent and the other stubborn.

"The source added the father wants to end the fighting by administering his own prescription, giving a bloody nose to one in the form of increased bombing of North Vietnam and gagging the other side...

"The source said President Nixon seeks the two-Vietnam formula as possibly the only solution for a lasting peace. He said the President apparently tried to play the role of referee between the two warring Vietnams and impose an end to the war in his own style.

"According to the source, the two-Vietnam idea is what Kissinger referred to last week when he said there was one point still to be resolved. The resumption of bombing was apparently designed to emphasize the President's point."



AP Wirephoto

President Nixon waved as he and wife Pat boarded Air Force One yesterday to fly to Key Biscayne, Fla., where they will spend the Christmas holidays