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**Thieu's Special Envoys to U.S.
Will Press for Long-Term Aid**

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 5 — The leader of a five-man delegation of legislators whom President Nguyen Van Thieu is sending to Washington next week says their mission will be to persuade Congress to keep providing and even to increase American military and economic assistance to South Vietnam if there is no peace soon.

Senator Nguyen Van Ngai, a principal organizer of Mr. Thieu's new Democracy party and a man with close, continuing contacts with the President, said that Saigon expected that the negotiations in Paris beginning Monday could drag on for at least two months.

"The Communists are trying to play on the impatience in the American Congress to end the war quickly," he said. "On our part, we have gained time from the Americans to prepare for a cease-fire. But the Communists may keep delaying, at least until the end of February, when Congress has to have taken a firm position on the war."

Group Meets With Thieu

Senator Ngai and a group of other South Vietnamese legislators met with President Thieu in his palace last night, and the Senator said that he would meet again with Mr. Thieu to prepare for his departure from Saigon Monday.

He said that he expected to talk with American journalists and friends in Congressional committees while in the United States. And he added that he would bring with him a message from President Thieu, although he would not reveal its contents today.

Senator Ngai, who professed to be fully informed on all aspects of the private peace negotiations, said that most but not all of Saigon's original objections to the October draft accord had been met, and that the principal ones remaining dealt with North Vietnamese troops staying in the South after a cease-fire and to any agreement that did not recognize North Vietnam and South Vietnam as separate sovereign states.

Thieu Holding Firm

President Thieu still insists that those conditions must be met before a cease-fire agreement would be acceptable to

him. The United States does not agree with him on the issue of North Vietnamese troops in the South, Mr. Ngai noted, and the Communists have not agreed to a compromise on either issue.

"The Communists have been unyielding so far," he said. "We will see what they say in Paris next week." He did note that the North Vietnamese had agreed to put aside from the October draft agreement the original description of the proposed National Council of Reconciliation and Concord as a governmental authority, thus conceding Saigon's objection to that part of the accord.

Mr. Ngai, who is a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, said his group would try to persuade Congress to authorize more assistance for the nation's air defenses.

Only Two Battalions

"We have only two anti-aircraft artillery battalions," he said, "and we have asked for F-4 Phantom interceptors to counter the MIG's of the other side, but you have always refused. We are still in an unfavorable situation vis-a-vis North Vietnam. It is our war, we accept the burden of the war, but we need some more weapons. Without them we will need air support from the United States for some time to come."

Senator Ngai said that he would return to Saigon by way of London and Paris after about three weeks in the United States.

Last night, at a dinner at the Presidential palace, according to Senator Ngai and others present, President Thieu apologized to the legislators for having issued a strong decree late last month on political parties, which will have the effect of forcing the many small ones in the country to either consolidate and create nationwide organizations or go underground.

He told them that he took the step because it was necessary to create a strong front against the Communists should a political struggle succeed the military one after a cease-fire.

He was also said to have once again offered his resignation if that would bring about a lasting peace.