

Saigon Reopens Issue Of Cease-Fire Nations

By Jacques Leslie

Los Angeles Times

SAIGON, Jan. 6—South Vietnam has asked several governments not previously mentioned in public cease-fire discussions to contribute troops to an international supervisory force, a senator close to President Nguyen Van Thieu said Saturday.

The senator, Nguyen Van Ngai, said at a luncheon with several journalists at his home that both "Communist and non-Communist" governments had been contacted in Paris. He refused to say which countries were involved or what their response had been.

Washington expects four countries—Canada, Indonesia, Hungary and Poland—to serve on the proposed cease-fire supervisory commission. Hanoi has expressed reservations.

Ngai said that South Vietnam wanted a control force of 25,000 troops, as opposed to the 5,000 mentioned by American officials and 250 which U.S. presidential adviser Henry Kissinger said North Vietnam advocated.

If true, this demand appears to widen differences between the United States and South Vietnam on a cease-fire accord. The South Vietnamese desire for a large supervisory force is based on a widespread feeling here that Communist troops will not adhere to a cease-fire.

Not many observers believe that even a force of 25,000 would not be large enough to prevent or even monitor infringements.

Ngai is the spokesman in a group of six South Vietnamese senators who plan to leave Tuesday on a one-month trip to the United States, England and France. So far, only five senators' names have been made public because the sixth senator, the only one opposed to Thieu, is having "tactical problems" within his faction over the trip, Ngai said.

The trip is a lobbying effort on behalf of the South Vietnamese government, which is fearful that the U.S. Congress may cut or reduce economic and military aid.

Ngai said the group would

be meeting both legislators and members of the Nixon administration to "provide them with the most accurate information about what is happening here."

Although Kissinger said in his Dec. 16 press conference that the United States would not press North Vietnam to withdraw its troops from the South, and many observers believe Thieu has now conceded the point, Ngai said Thieu still found that concession unacceptable.

"If you (the Americans) accept the presence of Communist troops in South Vietnam, that means you agree to reward the aggressors," Ngai said. "How could you then justify your involvement in this war?"

Ngai said an agreement which allowed North Vietnam to leave its troops in the South was a sell-out "to some extent," and added, "We will not sign an agreement which has the effect of selling out the country."

Ngai said North Vietnam had given up the demand that the Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, a body set up in the Oct. 26 cease-fire draft agreement, be interpreted as a "government structure." Thieu has insisted that the council be given no governing responsibility.

A pleasant man with an effusive laugh, Ngai was born 20 miles south of Hanoi, and said he began "revolutionary activity" against the French in 1950. He is now one of the chief organizers of Thieu's Democracy Party.

The trip by six senators follows on the heels of another South Vietnamese mission. Former Foreign Minister Tran Van Do and former Ambassador to the United States Bui Diem left Saigon Thursday and are now in Washington, their purpose is presumably the same as the senators'.