

Saigon Reportedly Will Get

SAIGON (AP) — Official South Vietnamese sources said today that Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. is bringing a revised draft peace agreement to Saigon. And a leading newspaper quoted an unnamed source as saying a cease-fire might occur before Feb. 3, the Tet new year.

The newspaper, Tin Song, often regarded as the official voice of President Nguyen Van Thieu's palace, quoted another source as saying the

Saigon government was "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about peace.

Haig, the U.S. Army vice chief of staff, was flying to Saigon to report to Thieu on the latest round of private Paris peace talks between Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. He was due here early Tuesday.

THIEU, MEANWHILE, met with members of his National Security Council, his closest group of senior aides, to lay

groundwork for the meeting with Haig.

Official sources said the meeting lasted eight hours, the longest ever held by the council, and involved an intensive review of Saigon's positions on an Indochina peace settlement.

From reports relayed from Paris by his own chief negotiator, Pham Dang Lam, and through U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, Thieu already

knows what changes have been made in the latest version of the draft agreement which originally was negotiated last October.

Well-informed sources said Saturday that Saigon saw "encouraging signs" in Paris on the issue of South Vietnamese sovereignty, which Thieu says must be provided for in any agreement he will sign.

THE SOURCES said Thieu had received a new Communist

TATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS

New Offer--Peace by Feb. 3?

proposal which would provide for North and South Vietnam to be recognized as separate states if the Viet Cong's provisional revolutionary government was given equal status as a third.

At the same time, the sources indicated the possibility of a compromise by Thieu on his demand that the agreement specifically provide for the total withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam.

Under the reported compromise, the sources said, there would be a "tacit understanding" on withdrawal in the peace treaty itself. But those provisions would be spelled out in one of the accompanying technical protocols.

There has been no official comment on this report.

Tin Song said today, however, that "the standpoints of the Republic of Vietnam are the demands for total withdrawal of 300,000 North Viet-

namese troops and North Vietnam must recognize South Vietnam as a country which has sovereignty and integrity of territory."

IT SAID ITS sources would not say whether Hanoi had made any concessions in the latest talks. But it quoted one unnamed source as saying the North Vietnamese "have demonstrated a peaceful and flexible attitude in the latest peace negotiations and have recog-

nized that there are two governments in Vietnam and that the North Vietnamese Communists will recognize the 17th parallel as the boundary which temporarily divides the country into two separate states in respect of military neutrality."

If true, this would mean Hanoi had agreed to restoration of the demilitarized zone which divided Vietnam under the 1954 Geneva accords.