

S. VIETS REPORT CEASEFIRE
SCHEDULED FOR WEEKEND

SAIGON (AP)—A cease-fire will be declared by the United States and South Vietnam on the eve of President Nixon's Saturday inauguration to pave the way toward signing of a peace agreement to end the Indochina war, South Vietnamese sources said tonight.

Nixon was said to have advised President Nguyen Van Thieu that an international agreement has been reached to preclude further hostilities by North Vietnam, and to have told Thieu to "trust in me."

PRESS SECRETARY Ronald L. Ziegler told newsmen that President Nixon will make no statement to the nation or Congress this week on the subject of the Vietnam negotiations.

However, Ziegler left open the possibility Nixon would have something to say about Vietnam in his televised inaugural address Saturday. 20 JAN

Ziegler said: "We have an agreement with the other side not to discuss the substance of the negotiations and we're sticking by that agreement."

This was his response to virtually all questions on the subject of the search for a Vietnam accord.

Ziegler had said Monday that Kissinger would be returning to Paris "in the relatively near future."

HE SAID today he stands by that statement even though he ruled out a

Kissinger return to Paris this week, and added that he did not mean by that to suggest Kissinger necessarily would go to Paris next week.

The unilateral cease-fire would be designed to set the stage for an exchange of prisoners and for the signing by the foreign ministers of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Viet Cong of the peace settlement drafted at Paris, the informants said.

There was no clear understanding of whether Hanoi and the Viet Cong had agreed to the allied cease-fire. However, the sources, who have had access to discussions by Thieu and other top-level South Vietnamese leaders of the latest draft proposal, said concessions had been made by both sides on essential issues blocking the peace treaty.

These reports came after Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. conferred for 2½ hours with Thieu on the draft proposal worked out by Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho in Paris.

THE SOURCES SAID that some "ambiguous points" of the peace agreement will remain to be settled following the cease-fire and before the pact can be signed. They added it was hoped this could be accomplished before the end of January.

The informants went on to say that the Saigon government may have reservations about the final draft agreement, but that it was recognized that

with Nixon applying pressure for a settlement and Congress threatening to cut off aid, Thieu is faced with no choice but to go along.

Nixon's reported allusion to an international arrangement to guarantee peace was said by the source to have been contained in a letter to Thieu, delivered either by U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker last weekend or by Haig, Nixon's special emissary.

ACCORDING TO THE sources, the letter urged Thieu not to worry about the terms of the peace settlement because of the arrangement which would assure that any fresh effort by North Vietnam to start another war after a peace agreement would get nowhere.

There were no details given on the agreement to which the letter supposedly referred, but one South Vietnamese official said:

"Both sides are under pressure. We are under pressure from the United States, Hanoi is under pressure from the Soviet Union and Communist China . . . Everything must be understood in the context of an international arrangement in the light of the detente."

One American official said it was possible the details were purposely leaked by South Vietnamese officials because of their objections to the conditions being imposed on them.

ANOTHER U.S. official noted that whatever the case, contingency plans for a pullout of all remaining American forces and a release of prisoners within 60 days, as provided for in the

Turn to Page 10, Column 1

Cease-Fire Set for Friday

Continued from Front Page

original draft proposal, have been ready "for weeks."

The South Vietnamese sources did not indicate how the cease-fire would be enforced immediately. The draft peace plan calls for an international police force from four countries — Poland, Canada, Hungary and Indonesia.

The size of the enforcement group has been a subject of dispute between the United States and North Vietnam in the secret Paris talks. But South Vietnamese sources said earlier today that the latest draft includes a tentative agreement on a force of about 3,000.

One source reported there have been disputes over determination of which territory each side would control under a cease-fire.

THEY SAID this was one reason for the dispatch of a team of South Viet-

namese military officers to help technical experts work out the details in the draft agreement. The group, headed by Lt. Gen. Vinh Loc, commander of the National Defense College, was reported preparing to leave for Paris.

South Vietnamese sources said the new draft still left unresolved such basic Saigon demands as the withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam and restoration of the demilitarized zone between the North and South. But progress toward agreement was reported on those also.

THE U.S. EMBASSY indicated there would be further meetings between Haig and Thieu and said the schedule of President Nixon's special emissary was "open-ended."

There were unconfirmed reports from Vietnamese sources that Haig brought a personal letter from Nixon to Thieu. But political sources in Saigon and Washington indicated that the halt in all attacks on North Vietnam

which began Monday was not only a sign of good faith to Hanoi but also a message to Thieu that Nixon considers a just agreement is within grasp and he is determined to conclude it.

Nixon ordered all offensive military operations across the entire territory of North Vietnam halted Monday night, citing progress in the negotiations between Kissinger and Tho last week.

Nixon's action, which the Florida White House termed a "unilateral gesture," gave momentum to new peace hopes and came amid a host of reports that an agreement to end the war would be signed soon.

THE WHITE HOUSE refused to discuss the reports of an agreement, saying instead that "negotiations are in progress" and Kissinger would return to Paris "in the relatively near future."

U.S. officials in Washington said Nixon's order indicated that Kissinger and Tho reached basic agreement again during their intensive talks last week.