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**HIGH SAIGON AIDE
 SAYS SETTLEMENT
 OF WAR IS 'CLOSE'**

**Foreign Minister Declares
 South Vietnam Has No
 Objection to Accord**

'CLARIFICATION' SOUGHT

**Haig Is Expected to Return
 Today to Renew His Talks
 With President Thieu**

By **FOX BUTTERFIELD**

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 19—Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said today that a settlement to the Vietnam war was "very close" though South Vietnam was "still seeking clarification of terms."

Speaking to newsmen outside the foreign ministry, Mr. Lam insisted that his Government was not objecting to the proposed accord. "We want to make it clear there is no objection," he said. "We have used the word 'clarification.'"

The Foreign Minister's comment was the first public statement by a South Vietnamese official indicating that a cease-fire was near.

Haig Expected Back

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., President Nixon's special envoy, was expected to return to Saigon tomorrow in a further effort to work out several remaining differences with President Nguyen Van Thieu on carrying out the draft peace accord.

[In Paris, United States and North Vietnamese experts working on details of the agreement met for four and a half hours, one of the shortest in their series of almost daily meetings since the beginning of the month.]

* See statements by Stennis and Goldwater, Wx Post, Kilpatrick, 19 Jan 73.

The talks between General Haig and the South Vietnamese President were interrupted yesterday as Mr. Thieu was preoccupied with the wedding of his only daughter, Nguyen Thi Tuan Anh, 19 years old. "No politics today," a smiling Mr. Thieu said at the marriage ceremony.

Clarification Sought

General Haig spent the day in Bangkok, where he conferred for two hours with Thai leaders, presumably outlining the latest revisions of the settlement.

In two earlier meetings here this week, President Thieu reportedly told General Haig that he now accepted the general principles of the accord but still had some reservations about the concrete ways it was carried out.

President Thieu's reservations are said to fall into four areas, according to Vietnamese close to the talks, and are centered on the protocols—sup-

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plemental documents that put the accord into effect—and not on the text of the agreement itself.

Mr. Thieu wants a clearer definition of the types of prisoners who would be released by the Communists; he does not want the mixed military commissions that will supervise the cease-fire stationed in some strongly pro-Communist areas; he is unhappy that Government army and police units are to be restricted from moving freely in and flying over areas they control; and he wants North Vietnam to concede the southern half of the demilitarized zone to South Vietnamese control.

General Haig is said to have told Mr. Thieu that many of these details in the protocols had already been agreed on in Paris with the North Vietnamese and perhaps could not be changed. Both Vietnamese and American officials have said privately in the last few weeks that Mr. Thieu is now resigned to accepting whatever agreement the Americans finally negotiate in Paris.

But despite Mr. Thieu's obvious attempt in this round of the negotiations to appear conciliatory—particularly with the United States Congress threatening to cut off aid if an agreement is not reached soon—there is no certainty that Mr. Thieu might not again balk as he did last October and block a cease-fire.

In his talk with newsmen Foreign Minister Lam indicated that the accord might in the beginning apply only to Vietnam and not cover Laos and Cambodia immediately.

"The negotiators are trying to solve the Vietnamese problem first," Mr. Lam said. "The problems in Laos and Cambodia will be solved in a certain period of time."

While a number of ostensible provisions of the accord have been publicly reported, there has been very little information on how they would apply to Laos and Cambodia. The nine points disclosed by Hanoi on Oct. 26 said only that foreign troops would have to be withdrawn from those two other Indochina countries, but they did not specify who the foreign troops were or by when they must get out.