

SAIGON PREPARING

Said to Plan 24-Hour
Curfew for the First
3 Days of Truce

By SYLVAN FOX

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday Jan. 24—President Nguyen Van Thieu was reportedly preparing last night to announce a number of emergency measures to take effect at the start of a cease-fire.

Among the emergency measures, according to several Western sources, would be a 24-hour-a-day curfew for at least three days after the start of a cease-fire.

Such a curfew, intended to prevent any political agitation or terrorist activity, would virtually paralyze Government-controlled areas of South Vietnam by prohibiting anyone from leaving his home.

That would mean that no food stores, businesses, restaurants or other basic services would function during the curfew. South Vietnam now has a daily curfew between 11 P.M. and 6 A.M.

Throughout yesterday, further details of the agreement under discussion between Washington and Hanoi became known here.

Thieu Apparently Unsuccessful

It appeared, from accounts given by South Vietnamese sources who have reportedly had access to portions of the agreement, that President Thieu lost all or most of his last-minute battles to modify its text.

He had sought to prevent mixed military commissions—consisting of representatives of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the National Liberation Front, or Vietcong—from being stationed in three cities that are centers of Communist strength.

But according to the South Vietnamese sources, the final text provides for the mixed military commissions to be stationed in Saigon, Da Nang, Plei-

ku, Bien Hoa and Can Tho, and also—at Communist insistence—in Phan Thiet, Hue and My Tho.

These mixed military commissions are supposed to assist a new international control commission—consisting of Poland, Hungary, Indonesia and Canada—in supervising the cease-fire.

The text also reportedly in-

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cludes a provision freezing in place the military and police units on both sides, thereby preventing the movement of Government policemen to areas of potential or actual disorder in South Vietnam. President Thieu reportedly fought vigorously but vainly to change this provision.

It was also reported that President Thieu lost his fight to regain control of that portion of the demilitarized zone that lies south of the Ben Hai River. Under the Geneva accords of 1954, the southern part of the area straddling the border was under South Vietnamese control, but it has been in the hands of the North Vietnamese since they began a major offensive last spring.

President Thieu has been in close consultation with the United States Ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, throughout the final phases of the peace nego-

tiations, and there has been no indication that he was raising adamant objections to the agreement despite his inability to obtain the last-minute adjustments he had sought.

Mr. Bunker and President Thieu met yesterday for 25 minutes beginning shortly before noon. They met for the same length of time Monday and held two meetings on Sunday.

President Thieu was also holding almost continuous meetings with members of his National Security Council and with legislative and judicial officials in preparation for a cease-fire announcement.

Little Enthusiasm

Meanwhile, the expectation of the announcement was treated guardedly and without enthusiasm by South Vietnamese officials.

Tin Song, the semiofficial newspaper that often reflects the attitudes of the Thieu Government, quoted several South Vietnamese Senators as ex-

pressing doubt that the Communists would adhere to the conditions of an agreement.

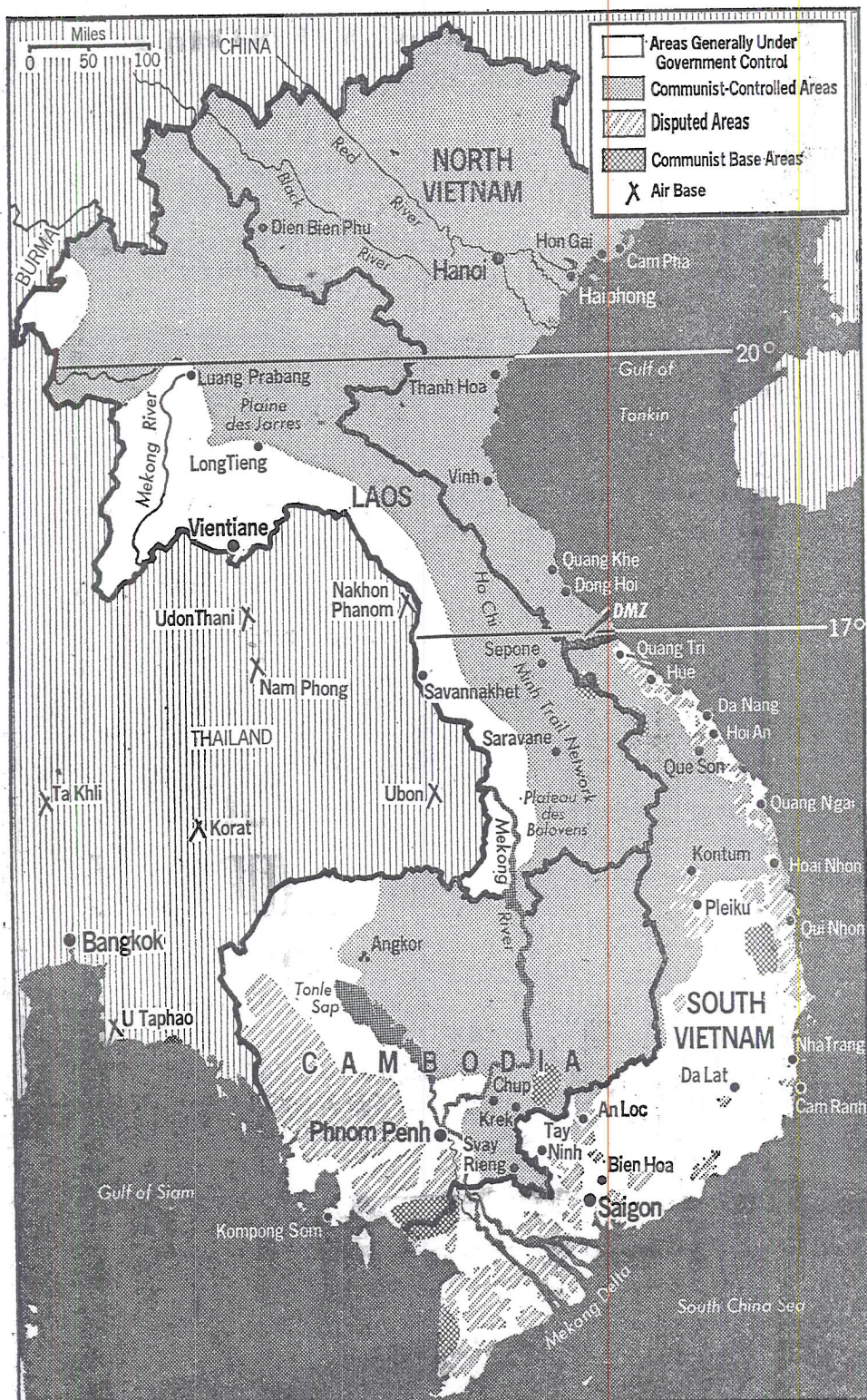
Senator Nguyen Huu Luong was quoted as saying: "We cannot believe that the North Vietnamese Communists will keep their promises after an accord is signed."

He warned the South Vietnamese people, according to Tin Song, to "beware of the Communists' shrewd plots everywhere."

Da Nang Put on Alert

SAIGON, Jan. 23 (UPI)—The Government of President Thieu ordered the city of Da Nang to be placed on alert and announced additional measures designed to crack down on possible Communist activity during a cease-fire.

Some 5,000 Americans at the allied air base at Da Nang have also reportedly been ordered on a "gray" alert with no travel in town except on official business.



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Above map shows approximate areas held by Communist and Government forces in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. While the Communists control large parts of the three countries, the population centers are mostly in Government-held areas. Map showing population density in Indochina and one indicating positions of troops in South Vietnam are on Page 19.