

Thieu: Pact Is No Peace Guarantee

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Saigon

President Nguyen Van Thieu declared today that he considered the peace accord reached in Paris to be only a cease-fire that does not guarantee "a stable, long-lasting peace."

While claiming that the agreement demonstrated

that Communist aggression against the South has "been smashed," Thieu said:

"Let me say frankly of the peace accord to be signed in three days that I only consider it as a cease-fire agreement. As to whether or not we will have real peace, we must wait and see.

"I say this is only a cease-fire agreement, not more or less. In the days to come, we will see if the Communists will observe the agreement."

TIMING

Thieu made his declarations in a 40-minute speech broadcast to the South Vietnamese people this morning. The beginning of his speech was timed to coincide with the radio and television address by President Nixon, which was broadcast on the

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Armed Forces Radio here. But Thieu continued long after Mr. Nixon had concluded his talk.

Thieu did not indicate whether his government had initialed or would sign the peace agreement.

He said merely that the accord would be signed on Saturday "by the parties participating in the talks." Only North Vietnam and the U.S. actually participated in the Paris peace talks.

He described the signing of the peace agreement as "the end of the first phase of our struggle, the phase of defeat of Communist military aggression," and said the next phase would be "a political struggle in which we will defeat Communist

atheistic doctrine."

DANGER

The next phase of the struggle, he said, would be "not less dangerous and not less difficult" than the phase that is now ending.

Thieu made two principal points in the speech: That North Vietnam had lost the war and therefore had been forced to make significant concessions to the South, and that the agreement reached in Paris fell short of assuring a lasting peace in South Vietnam.

Like Mr. Nixon, Thieu announced that a cease-fire would go into effect throughout South Vietnam at 8 a.m. Saigon time Sunday.

"After 18 years," he said, "the Communists have had to stop their aggression. This is thanks to our gallantry. The army of South Vietnam and the people have smashed their military aggression."

CONCILIATORY

Thieu sounded relatively conciliatory when he discussed the continuing presence of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam. By his estimates there are some 300,000 such troops, although U.S. intelligence sources place the number closer to 145,000.

"We will continue to affirm that we will not accept the continued presence of any troops which have been brought in from outside," he said, "and we will discuss this matter with them."

But he added that "as long as North Vietnamese troops are still in South Vietnam, the principle of self-determination will not be truly observed."

WARNING

He said political questions concerning the future of South Vietnam would be discussed with "the other side," but he warned: "Let me say that it is still not sure that the peace we are going to have will be a stable, long-lasting peace. We

have had many painful experiences with the Communists. We have had experiences with the 1954 Geneva Accords which were later torn down by the Communists."

He cautioned his army and people about possible Communist military offensives during the last days before the cease-fire goes into effect and he urged the display of South Vietnamese flags everywhere.

Thieu did not announce the imposition of a 24-hour curfew or other emergency measures, as had been expected by Western diplomats. He indicated, however, that he would speak to the people again later in the week.