

# Agnew Journey to F Truce-Control Nations Are Briefed by Rogers

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 25—eral Waldheim of the United Nations.

Well-placed Administration officials said today that President Nixon would soon send Vice President Agnew to South Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries to demonstrate continued American support in the wake of the signing Saturday of a Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

Mr. Agnew's trip has been rumored in Saigon for nearly a week, but was not confirmed by officials here until today. It is understood that Mr. Agnew's mission was promised after Mr. Nixon secured the agreement of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam to the accord worked out by Henry A. Kissinger with Hanoi's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho.

News of Mr. Agnew's trip, which will probably take place this weekend, became known as the Administration prepared on a number of fronts for the formal signing of the cease-fire in Paris by Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Saturday and for actions to begin carrying out the pact Saturday night.

## A Hanoi Gesture

There were also these developments today on the Vietnam peace agreement:

Well-placed officials said that North Vietnam's unexpected decision to allow United States Air Force planes to land at Hanoi's airport to pick up American prisoners was not conveyed to Mr. Kissinger until shortly before he and Mr. Tho initialed the cease-fire agreement in Paris on Tuesday. Hanoi's decision was interpreted here as a goodwill gesture.

The State Department has pared down its original plan to send 100 foreign service officers to South Vietnam after the cease-fire is put into effect. Instead, only 50 have been ordered to depart. They will be assigned to new consulates to be established in the countryside, besides the one already functioning at Da Nang. They will report to Washington on political developments, keeping a watch on how the cease-fire is being observed.

Intensive work was going on informing Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, and Poland of their responsibilities as the four-member international control commission for the Vietnam cease-fire. Mr. Rogers met today with the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, Mitchell W. Sharp, and the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, at the State Department. In addition Mr. Rogers discussed the agreement with Secretary Gen-

eral Waldheim of the United Nations. According to officials, Mr. Agnew, in addition to visiting South Vietnam, will also go to Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. Mr. Kissinger announced yesterday that the cease-fire in Vietnam was expected to extend soon to Laos and Cambodia.

The Vice President will presumably convey to the leaders of those countries the continuing American interest in giving them economic aid and whatever military aid is permitted under the cease-fire accord.

Some concern has been expressed in Southeast Asia that, following the cease-fire agreements, the United States would disengage completely from the area. But Mr. Nixon has already informed top leaders of countries there that the United States will back them in their efforts to remain non-Communist, officials said.

Mr. Agnew's trip to Saigon will be the most publicized of his missions, since it will come shortly after the signing of the cease-fire, to which Mr. Thieu had raised many strong objections. It was understood that Mr. Thieu only agreed last week after he was told in unmistakable terms by Mr. Nixon that the United States would sign with or without him.

Presumably, Mr. Agnew's assignment will be to ease Mr. Thieu's concern about the future and give assurances of continued American backing for South Vietnam in the post-war period.

## Canadian Unit Ready

At the State Department, Mr. Sharp, the Canadian minister, told newsmen that Canada would send her complement of 290 men to Vietnam as soon as the cease-fire was signed on Saturday. Canada's participation is only provisory, depending on what happens in the first 60 days, Mr. Sharp said.

The official attitude of reserve was based on Canada's experience in the International Control Commission that supervised the cease-fires in Indochina following the 1954 Geneva agreement. That commission of Canadians, Indians and Poles was never effective, and this later caused strong resentment in Canada.

Mr. Waldheim told newsmen that the United Nations would play a role if the Vietnamese asked it to, but he indicated that such a decision had not yet been made.