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Political Warfare Foreseen

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Jan. 25—

President Thieu and his closest adviser made clear today that South Vietnam has little faith in the ability of an international supervisory force to police the Vietnam peace agreement.

In two separate meetings at which he spoke without a text, Thieu also braced his police and propaganda chiefs for all-out political war after the cease-fire on Sunday.

The president told 500 top police officers at a national convention that they must meet force with greater force and warned: "We cannot rely too much on international treaties, for the Communists do not respect them. Nor can we rely too much on the international cease-fire commission."

The new political war, "which may last six months, one year or two years will be very important and will decide the political future of Vietnam," he said. The police must destroy the Vietcong's underground network after the cease-fire, he said.

Thieu said "one-man, one-vote" elections could take place within six months. "We must be prepared to beat the Communists in six months in a one-man, one-vote election."

The predecessor of the reconstituted International Control Commission being formed to investigate cease-fire violations is a "useless and helpless organization" and South Vietnam's best guarantee of peace is a strong army, Thieu said.

"We have sent piles and piles of complaints after so many years but nothing has been done," Thieu told a gathering of 800 information officers who are to fan out across the country to inform the population about the cease-fire.

Thieu warned that the war would resume "under

new conditions" if the Communists fail to honor the agreement.

Even if the Vietcong and the Saigon government

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agree to conditions for an election, Thieu said that if his government wins "the Communists will accuse us of rigging the elections and the war will start again."

"I think that if the Communists violate the cease-fire and if they wage new war, the war will begin with new conditions," he said later at a press conference. "Not only the Vietnamese people will fight, but I think the war will have the participation of many other ones."

Asked specifically whether he had a promise of help from the United States if the war resumes, Thieu replied, "Let's see in a few days." He added that he could not disclose his understanding with the United States.

Thieu's refusal to elaborate on his understandings with Washington heightened speculation that Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, scheduled to arrive here Sunday, will stress continued American support for the Saigon government.

A week ago, the U.S. ambassador to Thailand, Leonard Unger, said publicly that sufficient American military strength will be maintained in Southeast Asia to prevent violations of

the peace agreement.

Thieu called the agreement a victory for South Vietnam "because if the Communists can continue the war and if they still nourish the hope to win militarily in the war, they never sign the agreement, they never accept a cease-fire."

Apparently already reflecting Thieu's Saigon radio broadcast a commentary warning that the agreement was only the first step toward peace because, to the Communists, "peace does not necessarily mean the end of all hostilities. To them peace is just a cover for a hidden war... a war of reprisal, of assassinations, of subversion..."



Associated Press

Thieu jokes with nephew and closest aide Hoang Duc Nha.

the Communists are going to abide strictly by their promises, Nha said. "We still have to watch."

"Based on past experience, we cannot rely too much on international treaties, for the Communists do not respect them. Nor can we rely too much on the international cease-fire commission," he added.

Speaking in depreciating tones that conveyed even more than his words, NHA summed up publicly the collective private reaction of political and diplomatic observers—that the agreement has built in deficiencies that will reduce the new group, renamed the Commission of Control and Supervision to window dressing.

"The question of the efficiency of such a body has long been debated, and as you know the former ICC found it very difficult to perform its functions," he said.

"Now, this time with the new ICCS, the question comes again of how to detect the violations by the Communists, and though that is the responsibility of the ICCS, we think that we, the people of South Vietnam, are the best ICCS that can be."

NHA said South Vietnam is ready to begin political negotiations with the Vietcong within 24 hours of the peace agreement being signed in Paris on Saturday. "It could be here or it could be in Paris," he said.

The president's information chief and closest adviser, his nephew Hoang Duc Nha, stressed at a press conference that Saigon sees the Vietcong as the greatest obstacle to elections in South Vietnam.

"As long as there is a single North Vietnamese soldier in South Vietnam," said Nha, "the people of South Vietnam cannot exercise their rights in a free manner."

Military commanders and civilian province chiefs, Nha said, are being told to abide by the terms of the agreement and not try to capture territory now held by the Communists, but that South Vietnamese forces will fight if the Communists try to take more land by force.

"We are not going to expand and make forays into areas that are under control of the other side," he said. "If the other side tries to expand its area, of course we are going to stop them by force."

"We have no illusions that