



At a military cemetery in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, a family took advantage yesterday of the cease-fire to visit the grave of their son.

Thieu Letter Thanks U.S.

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 28—President Nguyen Van Thieu has written a letter to President Nixon expressing his "heartfelt gratitude for the great sacrifices that the United States has made throughout so many years to help us defend our freedom and our right of self-determination."

The Government said the letter was sent to President Nixon yesterday, the day of the signing of the peace agreement in Paris.

Mr. Thieu said that while the agreement "can be only a first important step" toward real peace, "it is nevertheless encouraging that after many long years of fighting, the killings and destructions are to stop at last, opening a new era in which all the human and natural resources of all the parties concerned can be devoted to more constructive purposes."

Value 'Continuing Support'

President Thieu said that in trying to build a lasting

peace, "We value very highly the continuing support of the United States toward our common goals of peace reconciliation and freedom."

"On this day," the letter said, "my thoughts go to all those who have suffered and have given their lives in order to uphold the ideals which our two nations hold dear, in particular to the brave young men of the valiant United States armed forces who crossed the ocean to fight at our side in various parts of Vietnam and whose sacrifices have stemmed the tide of invasion. Their blood shed on our soil for the common cause has sealed forever the very close bonds of friendship between our two nations."

The letter said Mr. Thieu's "affectionate thoughts" were also extended to those who had been captured and who would now be released.

Mr. Thieu sent a similar letter to President Park Chung Hee of South Korea.

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