

Agnew, in Saigon, Affirms Ties, Meets With Thieu

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By JOSEPH B. TREASTER
SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, Jan. 31 — Vice President Agnew arrived in Saigon yesterday for discussions with President Nguyen Van Thieu on postwar relations between the United States and South Vietnam.

In a brief written statement Mr. Agnew said that the United States looked forward "to working with the people and the Government of South Vietnam as partners in peace as we have been allies in war."

The Vice President has his first meeting with President Thieu early yesterday evening and their talk continued through a reception and working dinner at the presidential palace.

Mr. Agnew went to the palace with Ellsworth Bunker, the American Ambassador to South Vietnam; Charles S. Whitehouse, the Deputy Ambassador, and Brig. Gen. John M. Dunn, an aide from Washington.

No Details Disclosed

Among the South Vietnamese at the dinner, in addition to President Thieu, were Vice President Tran Van Huong, Premier Tran Thien Khiem and Hoang Duc Nha, Mr. Thieu's closest adviser.

Neither the American Embassy nor the Saigon Government would disclose any details of the conversations at the palace.

In his statement Mr. Agnew said that the United States recognized the Saigon Govern-

ment as the "sole legitimate Government of South Vietnam" and did not recognize the right of any foreign troops to remain in South Vietnam.

He said that the United States would do everything that the agreement to end the war "requires of us and we shall expect and indeed insist that the other parties do everything it requires of them."

These remarks were essentially a reiteration of earlier statements by President Nixon and his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger.

The Saigon Government had sought to have included in the cease-fire agreement the requirement that all North Vietnamese troops be withdrawn from South Vietnam.

But the United States chose to leave the question vague and Mr. Kissinger said last Wednesday in a news conference explaining the agreement that the United States believed that the "problem" of the North Vietnamese forces "will be taken care of by the evolution of events in South Vietnam."

In the same news conference Mr. Kissinger refused to clarify whether the United States regarded the North Vietnamese as "foreign troops" in South Vietnam.

In his statement yesterday Mr. Agnew declared: "The agreement signed last Saturday is a notable achievement built on the enormous sacrifices of

the South Vietnamese and American peoples. It would not have been possible were it not for the mutual trust which has characterized our partnership."

Mr. Agnew noted that "several procedural snags" had developed in the attempt to establish "smooth-working cease-fire machinery," but he added that these had not been unexpected and that he was confident they could be overcome.

He urged all of the parties involved as well as interested observers in major capitals of the world to "show patience and a positive attitude."

Mr. Agnew was expected to remain in South Vietnam through today. He is then scheduled to go on to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

The Vice President arrived at Tan Son Nhut Airport at 11:11 P.M. yesterday and maximum security precautions were in force. His plane was a blue-and-white Boeing 707 with a large United States flag painted on its high tail.

An armored car, with an American soldier manning the machine gun, followed the Vice President's plane as it taxied up to the military terminal.

South Vietnamese troops in steel helmets and flak jackets, and with rifles at the ready, formed ranks 300 to 400 yards from where the plane came to a halt. Other soldiers with rifles were on the roof of the terminal

and atop the protective walls around other aircraft.

Since the cease-fire officially went into effect here Sunday morning there have been a number of tense moments at the airport. Until less than two hours before the Vice President arrived a contingent of North Vietnamese soldiers had been locked in a diplomatic dispute with the Saigon Government over immigration procedures and had refused to leave the two American transports that had brought them from Hanoi to serve on the joint military commission. The planes, finally emptied, were standing about 75 yards from where the Vice President's aircraft rolled to a stop.

About 500 yards from where Mr. Agnew shook hands with Ambassador Bunker and a representative of the South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, other soldiers were watching the transfer of North Vietnamese prisoners of war in preparation for their eventual release.

* See KPFA Noon News 31 Jan 73