

Saigon to Offer Early

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 SAIGON, Jan. 30—The Saigon government's opening offer in negotiations with the Communists over South Vietnam's political future will be to hold elections within three months, granting full participation to the National Liberation Front and amending the country's constitution if necessary, well informed South Vietnamese sources said today.

Saigon will propose that the elections be for the presidency, even though Nguyen Van Thieu's second term has

almost three years to run, aides to Thieu said, but other posts could also be included in the electoral contest.

In exchange, the sources said, the Communists will be asked to accept the legitimacy of the existing constitution and to guarantee the withdrawal of all North Vietnamese troops from the South before the date of the election.

The peace agreement signed in Paris last Saturday requires "the two South Vietnamese parties"—the Saigon government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government set up

Election Date

by the National Liberation Front—to create a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord that will "organize free and democratic general elections."

It does not say what positions are to be at stake in the elections, nor when they are to be held. Those are matters left to be negotiated among the South Vietnamese.

The only general elections now scheduled to be held in South Vietnam this year are for 31 of the 60 Senate seats. Under the existing laws, that contest is to be held in Au-

gust. Sources on Thieu's staff, however, said the Saigon government is willing to amend the constitution and change the national election timetable if such an arrangement is required as a result of the negotiations.

In outline, the bargaining position being staked out by Thieu is a restatement of the position he took on political issues all through the negotiations that led to the Paris agreement: The country's existing constitution and elec-

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