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# SF Examiner Nixon Blames Thieu For Delay on POWs

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WASHINGTON — President Nixon personally holds South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu at least partly responsible for the Communist holdup last week in releasing American prisoners of war, high-ranking State Department officials disclosed yesterday.

They said that unless Thieu begins to more faithfully honor the ceasefire agreement with North Vietnam, future release of American POW's could similarly be endangered.

## 'Virtually Caged'

President Nixon was "more than just a little annoyed," the officials said, with the manner in which Thieu was treating the North Vietnamese delegation to the four-party Joint Military Commission headquartered in Saigon.

"Thieu has them virtually

caged," one policymaker said here, referring to the round-the-clock guards and barbed wire which the Saigon government has surrounded the Communist delegation.

"It's understandable," the official said, particularly in view of the widespread Communist ceasefire violations. "But nonetheless Thieu has got to get into shape. Uncle Sam is not going to be around much longer. He's got to get used to the idea that all sorts of people will be in Saigon and he's got to begin living up to the agreement."

## Paris Talks

In addition to the barbed wire and guards, Thieu has refused to provide a C-47 airplane for regular flights to Hanoi and has permitted, perhaps even encouraged, anti-communist demonstrations that officials here said more resembled "riots."

These officials disclosed that North Vietnam, in its private contacts in Paris last week with Secretary of State William Rogers and others, had complained chiefly of their treatment in Saigon. Policymakers here consequently believed Hanoi held up POW release to dramatize their complaints.

"Thieu is inhibiting them generally," another official here said. "He has deprived them of all the amenities that ordinarily make life pleasant — living quarters, freedom of movement, etc."

South Vietnamese diplomats here say that strong security measures are required to assure the Communists' safety.