

# THIEU AND NIXON DISCUSS MORE AID

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At Meeting in San Clemente  
They Pledge a Joint Effort  
to Build Lasting Peace

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By The Associated Press

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., April 2—President Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam today pledged a joint effort to build a lasting Indochina peace, then began discussing Saigon's plea for stepped-up American economic aid.

After the leaders completed a 90-minute meeting at the Western White House, officials indicated that Mr. Nixon had promised Mr. Thieu an infusion of United States aid for postwar reconstruction. But indications were that President Nixon was resisting a Thieu request for a specific American guarantee of renewed military intervention if North Vietnam blatantly violated the still-fragile cease-fire agreement.

As he gave President Thieu a full military welcome, Mr. Nixon voiced hopes that their two days of talks would produce "great steps forward in building the lasting peace, the real peace that we have fought together for."

Mr. Thieu responded by expressing "heartfelt gratitude" for past American assistance and said he hoped that their meetings would bring "a con-

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solidation of peace in Indochina and a new era of constructive cooperation in peace among all parties concerned."

After their opening meeting, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that they had reviewed the situation in Indochina and had "stressed the importance of implementing" the cease-fire agreement signed two months ago in Paris.

The two Presidents, Mr. Ziegler said, "reaffirmed the continuing strong friendly ties" between their countries and discussed the development of their postwar relations.

He said that the talks were held in "an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality." Mr. Ziegler acknowledged that there was "substantial discus-

sion regarding economic assistance, redevelopment assistance, which the United States could continue to provide to South Vietnam as we move into the postwar period."

## Missing Men Discussed

He said the leaders were discussing "in depth and in detail" such other questions as efforts to account for United States troops still missing in action, reported infiltration by North Vietnam and the presence of North Vietnamese troops in Laos and Cambodia.

When asked whether the United States would renew bombing if North Vietnam blatantly violated the cease-fire, Mr. Ziegler declined to answer, saying, "It won't serve any useful purpose to speculate on the United States' response to hypothetical developments."

This statement appeared to reflect Mr. Nixon's reported view that he should avoid any specific commitment in response to Mr. Thieu's request for a guarantee of military intervention. Rather, President Nixon is said to be prepared to repeat his warning to Hanoi

that he expects full compliance with the cease-fire agreement.

As Mr. Nixon gave President Thieu a red-carpet welcome four days after the United States officially ended its decade of Vietnam involvement, he told the Saigon leader that the Vietnamese now "have the strength to defend their own independence and their right

to choose their own government."

"We hope from this day, as a result of our talks," Mr. Nixon said, "will come great steps forward in building the lasting peace, the real peace that we have fought together for, and that now we want all of our people to live for."

Mr. Thieu responded by expressing "heartfelt gratitude for the noble contribution of the American nation" to defend his country and said he, too, hoped "that the joint effort of our two Governments would lead to a consolidation of peace in Indochina and a new era of constructive cooperation in peace among all parties concerned."

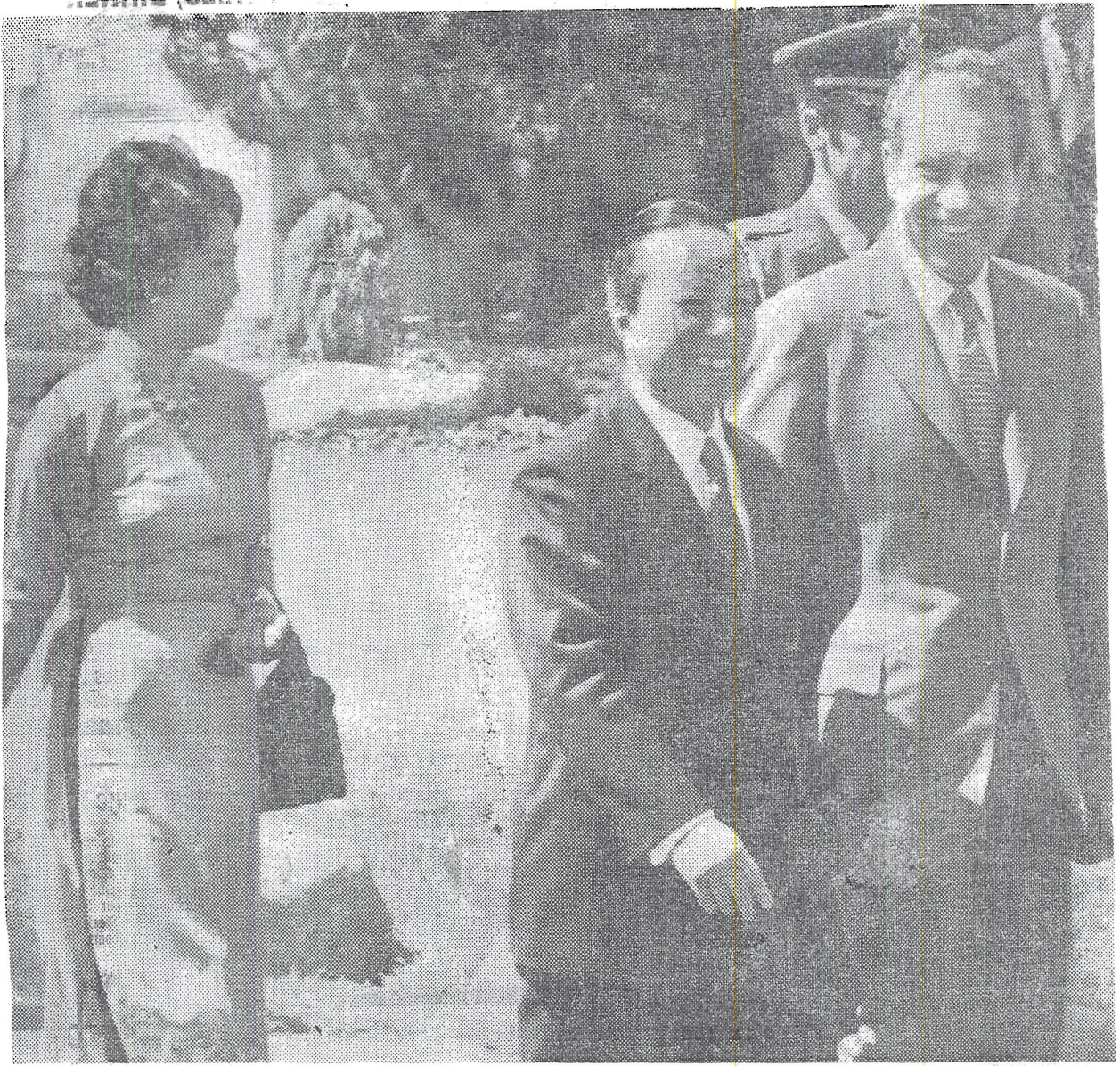
The two days of talks are the first face-to-face conference between the two leaders in nearly four years.

Before the first session in Mr. Nixon's paneled office over-

looking the Pacific, Mr. Thieu, who arrived in Los Angeles yesterday, received a colorful, ceremonial welcome to the country he last visited a dozen years ago.

President Nixon greeted the smiling Vietnamese leader with a brisk handshake, then escorted him and his official party along a red carpet to a bunting-draped stand to receive a booming 21-gun salute and other military honors. Then, in front of 500 invited guests waving tiny American and South Vietnamese flags, the two leaders exchanged opening remarks.





Associated Press

**President and Mrs. Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam with President Nixon yesterday at San Clemente, Calif.**