

THIEU SAID TO ASK \$700-MILLION AID EACH YEAR TO '76

Aides Report Saigon Then
Expects Drop to as Little
as \$100-Million in 1980

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WASHINGTON, April 6 —

President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam was reported by his close aides today to have asked President Nixon for an American economic aid commitment of more than \$700-million yearly through 1975—with a sharp reduction after that.

The aides, who are accompanying Mr. Thieu on his trip here, said that economic aid was now running at \$600-million to \$700-million a year from all United States sources. They envisioned a need for a modest increase in 1974 and 1975 to cover additional reconstruction efforts. But they thought that after 1975 the South Vietnamese would need less aid—as little as \$100-million in 1980.

In the communiqué issued in San Clemente on Tuesday after Mr. Thieu's two days of talks with Mr. Nixon, the Administration promised to seek continuing economic aid from Congress for South Vietnam, but gave no figure.

Foreign Aid Bill Awaited

The foreign aid bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1 goes to Capitol Hill next week, and American thinking may become further known then.

Mr. Thieu, who in an appearance before the National Press Club, yesterday declined to specify his aid request to Mr. Nixon, continued his hectic round of activities today aimed at improving his image here and at obtaining continued American support in the postwar period.

In private meetings with prominent Americans, Mr. Thieu has reportedly remained unperturbed about the military situation in South Vietnam. He has repeated what he said publicly yesterday—that South Vietnam could survive without further American military intervention.

Part of this optimism, it is understood, comes from a conversation Mr. Thieu held with Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, last October.

At that Saigon meeting, as related by Mr. Thieu, Mr. Kissinger assured the South Vietnamese leader that the United States had an "understanding" that Moscow and Peking would limit the flow of arms to Hanoi and would press the North Vietnamese to show military re-

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straint in the future.

The South Vietnamese have not been specific about this "understanding," and American officials today refused to comment.

At his news conference on a Jan. 24—the day after he initiated the Vietnam cease-fire agreement—Mr. Kissinger was asked whether there was "any understanding" with the Soviet Union or China to help preserve the agreement.

Mr. Kissinger avoided a direct answer by saying, "It is, of course, clear that peace in Indochina requires the self-restraint of all the major countries and especially of those countries which on all sides have supplied the wherewithal for this conflict."

"We, on our part, are prepared to exercise such restraint," he added. "We believe that the other countries, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, can make a very major contribution to peace in Indochina by exercising similar restraint."

Both Moscow and Peking did join in the international conference on Vietnam that approved an "act" calling on all powers not to do anything that might upset the agreement.

Mr. Thieu, whose Press Club speech and meetings on Capitol Hill with legislators yesterday drew him generally favorable comments, was highly praised last night by Vice President Agnew at a dinner at the State Department.

"We believe in you," Mr. Agnew said in a toast. "We believe in you as a President. We believe in your countrymen that have given their unstinting support."

Today Mr. Thieu tape-recorded a television interview for showing on Sunday, met with Pierre-Paul Schweitzer, director of the International Monetary Fund, and conferred with Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush and Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson.

Mr. Thieu told the Press Club that his aid requests stemmed from the need to resettle more than a million refugees, and to reconstruct entire cities destroyed during last year's heavy fighting.

In addition, he said, jobs

will have to be found for demobilized troops. He also asked for money to build new schools and train teachers.

Mr. Thieu said that a major effort must be made also to make South Vietnam's economy self-sufficient.

"We feel confident that with our abundant natural and human resources we can take off in a comparatively short time provided we are helped in the beginning," he said.

Hanoi Criticizes Communiqué

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 6 (AP)—North Vietnam said today that the communiqué issued by President Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu after their meeting in California proved that the United States had not ended its military involvement in South Vietnam.

An editorial in Nhan Dan,

the Communist party newspaper, said that instead the United States was "plunging itself deeply into political and economic involvement in order to maintain Thieu as security for its future resumption of military involvement."

An account of the busy Washington social schedule of President Thieu and his wife appears on Page 21.