

Thieu Warns Reds Must Withdraw

SAIGON — (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu returned from a six-nation tour yesterday and declared peace cannot be realized until North Vietnam withdraws its forces from Cambodia and Laos.

Returning from a visit to the United States and five European and Asian nations, Thieu must decide whether to send South Vietnamese forces into neighboring Cambodia to attempt to alleviate a deteriorating military situation.

A few hours before Thieu arrived to a government-planned welcome by an estimated 70,000 persons, the Viet Cong warned against a military intervention in Cambodia, saying it would lead to "heavier and heavier defeats."

Col. Duong Dinh Thao, a

senior member of the Viet Cong delegation to the Joint Military Commission in Saigon, told a news conference that there is a "very large deployment of" South Vietnamese troops north of Saigon. He did not pinpoint the specific area but the region north of Saigon would lead into Cambodia.

"We cannot confirm that Saigon is preparing to send troops to Cambodia, but if they do they will invite upon themselves failure," said Thao.

In response, Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien, chief spokesman for the Saigon command, said the deployment of government troops is South Vietnam's own business. He would not confirm or deny that Saigon troops were massing to invade Cambodia, where Communist forces have cut all but one of Phnom Penh's major supply routes.
