

Saigon Is Skeptical of Viet Cong Peace Plan

Paris

The South Vietnamese government responded skeptically Saturday to the new Viet Cong six-point peace plan, but carefully avoided outright rejection of the idea of speeding up an effective Vietnamese settlement.

Saigon's delegation to the Vietnam talks here called on the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (the Viet Cong) to set up working groups for detailed negotiations on four points: Restoration of democratic liberties, establishment of a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, national elections and the future of armed forces on both sides.

These points were mentioned in the Viet Cong proposal made here Friday. Two other points — a new cease-fire order and exchange of prisoners — should be dealt with by the two-party Joint Military Commission in Vietnam, the Saigon delegation said.

A statement issued by the South Vietnamese Embassy called the Viet Cong's new six-point plan "an extremely general restatement of their previous proposals, without going to the core of the prob-

lems to be solved."

Nonetheless, it was notable that the Saigon government did not raise specific objections.

The formal talks at La Celle-Saint Cloud, outside Paris, held weekly with occasional interruptions, have become sterile speechmaking sessions where no real business has been transacted since the signature of the Paris cease-fire accords in January, 1973.

Saigon officials here said they had frequently proposed various types of private talks to the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, with never a favorable response.

Saigon's answer to the latest Viet Cong offer is worded in such a way that it can be read either as a retort in a propaganda war or as an invitation to get down to hard bargaining.

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