

Thieu's Angry Speech

Saigon

President Nguyen Van Thieu charged last night that the United States reneged because of "internal problems" on promises of increased aid for South Vietnam.

In a two-hour televised speech, Thieu also rejected charges of corruption against him and his family and made clear that he plans to run next year for a third term. But he offered to resign if he loses the trust of the South Vietnamese people

and armed forces, indicating that only he can determine if they lose faith.

Thieu said the U.S. government promised him 20 months ago when he accepted the Paris agreement that ended American involvement in Vietnam that it would react strongly if the other side violated the cease-fire and North Vietnamese troops infiltrated into the south.

"But now there is no such reaction because of their internal problems," he said. "If the aid does not stay at

its old level, with the prospect of a general offensive, the situation will become very critical. If military and economic aid is not satisfied, I think the U.S. Congress' attitude would only encourage the Communists to invade South Vietnam."

Thieu said some members of the U.S. Congress and other Americans want him to bring Communists into the government but vowed that the South Vietnamese "will fight to the last drop of blood" rather than do so.

Associated Press