

Nixon's Promises to Aid SaigonLetters to Thieu Made Public

(Two confidential letters from Nixon to Thieu made public 30 Apr 75* by Nguyen Tien Hung, once executive assistant to Thieu. Letters are dated 14 Nov 72 and 5 Jan 73, promising "swift and severe retaliatory action" should North Vietnam violate the terms of the peace agreement. Letters are made public in Washington.)

"[Mr. Hung] told newsmen that he had had the letters in his possession for 'some time,' and had them when he came to this country two weeks ago [this would cover period 13 to 19 Apr] on an aid mission. Mr. Hung said he was making the letters public without Mr. Thieu's knowledge 'at the dictates of my conscience.'"

"Mr. Hung ... also quoted from letters but did not provide their full texts. Those letters were dated Jan. 17 and Jan. 20, 1973." Paraphrase of quotations included in story.

NYT 1 May 75, Bernard Gwertzman

All clippings on Nixon-Thieu letters will be filed Indochina.

*The date the forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and North Vietnam entered Saigon.