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VC Hint Violations May Up Fighting

PARIS (UPI) ^{7/6/73} The Viet Cong charged Thursday South Vietnamese troops have launched attacks on Communist areas with American encouragement and this could lead to new wide-scale fighting.

Minister of State Nguyen Van Hieu told Saigon officials: "since the signing (June 13) of the Common Communique, your side continues, with U.S. encouragement and support, its policy of torpedoing peace"

He said South Vietnamese troops of division strength launched attacks against Viet Cong zones in Chuong Thien and Kontum Provinces, backed by tanks, artillery and planes. This "has created a very tense situation", Hieu said.

The chief Viet Cong negotiator said: "If your side persists in this design, the situation cannot but become even more serious and your side will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from it."

Communist officials said the warning meant the attacks could lead to large-scale fighting sweeping Vietnam again.

The two sides met for 90 minutes in efforts to chart their political future, but made no progress.

Said Thieu: "the Saigon delegation served us the same dishes in a slightly different order — this is not good food."

Under the June 13 Vietnam Communique, the two sides must sort out their differences by July 28 at the latest. They agreed to meet again next Wednesday.

In his prepared statement at the conference, Hieu said: "If

the guns are not completely silent and if fighting continues, no other problem can be settled."

He demanded Saigon immediately discuss compliance with cease-fire provisions and release all political prisoners.

He also rejected Saigon's offer of elections on Christmas Day, saying: "no free elections can be held within the framework of this dictatorial and anti-democratic regime."

Hieu said the two sides must set up a three-segment National Reconciliation Council which alone could determine the formula for elections.

Hieu said that "within 15 days of signature of the Common Communique, Saigon police arrested more than 300,000 persons."

In his conference statement, Saigon's negotiator, deputy premier Nguyen Luu Vien, countered with charges it was the Viet Cong who were preventing the political talks from making progress by putting forward "unreasonable, one-way requirements while at the same time spreading calumnies and false accusations" against Saigon.

Vien called on the Communists to agree to the immediate formation of four special commissions which would tackle outstanding political issues.

He again urged a prior withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the south — a demand promptly rejected by the Viet Cong as "absurd."

After the 90-minute meeting at the Celle-Saint-Cloud Chateau Vien said: "I have nothing to report except we have made no progress."