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EXPRESS NEWS

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\* NIXON REJECTS RED OFFER TO CALL VN CEASE-FIRE

Saigon, Oct. 21 (CNA-UPI): President Nixon rejected a Communist offer to call a Vietnam cease-fire, apparently because the offer was tied to a package that included the imposition of a coalition government in Saigon, South Vietnamese legislators said Friday.

The reported rejection of the cease-fire-coalition plan represented a renewed U.S. pledge to back President Nguyen Van Thieu, who has adamantly refused to consider any type of coalition with the Communists. The legislators spoke to newsmen Friday following a Thursday night meeting with Thieu at the downtown Saigon Independence Palace.

Thieu met the assemblymen and senators between his two Thursday meetings with Nixon foreign affairs adviser Henry Kissinger and a third meeting with Kissinger Friday.

The legislators said Thieu told a conference of about 40 members of the National Assembly Thursday night that the North Vietnamese had proposed the cease-fire to be followed by a coalition government extending from the national down to the hamlet level in South Vietnam.