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GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TERMED NEWS ON SECRET TALKS WITH HANOI TOTALLY GROUNDLESS
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Saigon - - Government spokesman Nguyen Quoc Cuong this morning rejected a UPI dispatch from Saigon alleging that President Thieu's top advisors -- Gen. Dang Van Quang and roving Ambassador Bui Diem -- had left for Indonesia in efforts to seek negotiation with Communist North Vietnamese. Mr. Cuong termed this piece of news "totally groundless" and said that Gen. Quang made this trip "because of a private reason" and had "no comment" to make. According to UPI report which quoted after the diplomatic sources, president Thieu, in an effort to bring about genuine peace to Vietnam by the end of 1974, instructed his advisors to seek secret negotiations with the communists. President Thieu also ordered top ARVN Commanders to observe the ceasefire and to attack the Communists only for the purpose of retaking the lost areas. The UPI disclosed that President Thieu's peace initiative includes a four-phase plan for the ceasefire on battlefield: 1) Resuming military and political talks at technician level between Saigon and the VC. 2) Restoring normal activities of the peace keeping force from the impass reached by the four-nation members -- Indonesia, Iran, Hungary and Poland. 3) Setting free all political prisoners arrested since the date of Paris Agreement, Jan. 28, 1973, and 4) Ordering a permanent ceasefire into effect by the end of 1974. According to many other sources, President Suharto of Indonesia has agreed during secret talks last month with RVN Senate Chariman Tran Van Lam that Indonesia will play a mediating role in any negotiation on the VN issue. The spokesman, however, asserted that "such information is unfounded." As to Ambassador Bui Diem, Mr. Cuong disclosed that Amb. Diem has not left for Indonesia yet, but if he leaves, it's part of his routine activities as a Roving Ambassador.
