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holiday (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, December 15--The South Vietnamese government sees little hope the short holiday ceasefires in this increasingly bitter war here will lead to any ~~imparting~~ discussions for lasting peace.

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holiday 2 (normass/deepe)

Foreign Minister Tran Van Do expressed this ~~view~~ ^{Prospect}
as the Saigon government and its fighting allies prepared to
announce officially its shortest ~~holiday~~ ^{GROUND} ceasefire of the war,
~~including~~ ^{And Aerial} the bombing of North Vietnam. The government's
communique is scheduled to contain the proviso that the North
Vietnamese regime can extend the ~~cession~~ cessation of hostilities
by meeting with South Vietnamese officials in unspecified places.

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holiday 3 (normass/deepe)

On November 18, the Viet Cong military command announced its longest ~~ceasefire periods~~ ^{"cessation of military HACKS" in} of the war, covering, as does the Saigon ceasefire, the Christmas, New Year and lunar new year holidays.

"We see very little chance that Hanoi will accept a meeting," ~~the Foreign~~ Foreign Minister Do said, "even to discuss an extension of the truce." He said the ~~Saigon~~ South Vietnamese government had no preference in the location of the meeting, but suggested either Laos, Hong Kong, France or ^{India,} ~~New Delhi~~, where both ^{M. Ben + Am} governments ~~had~~ diplomatic officials.

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holiday 4 (normass/deepe)

The Saigon-Allied truce ceasefire covers two twenty-four hour periods beginning on Christmas Eve ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and New Year ~~XXXXXX~~ Eves, ~~beginning~~ at 6 p.m. Saigon time, and a 48-hour period during the Vietnamese lunar new year in late January. The Viet Cong ceasefire covers two ~~48-hour~~ ^{72-hour} periods over the Christmas and New Year's holidays plus seven days during the Vietnamese lunar new year.

The ceasefire designated by the Saigon government is shorter than the one President ~~Nguyen Van Thieu~~ ^{mentioned} publically ^{discussed} ~~and~~ shortly after his ~~inauguration in late~~ ⁱⁿ October 30th inauguration, when he mentioned two 48-hour ceasefires over Christmas and New Year. He ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{FR EN} vague about the length of the lunar new year ceasefire. During his Presidential campaign, General Thieu also advocated a bombing pause over North Vietnam, for as long as one month, but the suggestion was scoffed at by American Embassy ~~officials~~ officials at the time. The American officialdom here--particularly the ~~American~~ ^{FR EN} military command--strongly and publically rejects the idea of ^{AN EXTENDED} ~~a~~ bombing pause over North Vietnam, ^{EXCEPT FOR} ~~longer~~ than the short holiday cessation.

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holiday 5 (normass/deepe)

Foreign Minister Do--the elder statesman of the newly-elected government--said the Allied ceasefire was based principally on the military, not ~~politic~~ political, point of view. ~~inasmuch~~ He said the mechanics of the decision began in early December when General William C. Westmoreland, commander of American forces here, met with General Cao Van Vien, commander of Vietnamese armed forces. ¶

The Foreign Minister said that these two generals then recommended the 24-24-48-hour ceasefire formula for the three ~~hoid~~ holidays, ~~which was later accepted.~~ The general's recommendation was then forwarded to the Saigon-based embassies of the government's ^{five} ~~maintaining fighting~~ combat forces in Vietnam: New Zealand, Australia, ~~for~~ South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

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holiday § 6 (Normass/deepe)

These five embassies in Saigon then sent the ~~two~~ generals' ~~recommend~~ recommended formula to their respective home governments, which in turn accepted the proposal.

Asked why such a short truce ceasefire ~~pe~~ period was agreed upon, ~~the~~ the frail minister explained: "Because so far we have no indication from the other side to discuss (the settlement of the war) and so the extension of the truce is advantageous to them. They will profit from the long truce by increasing their infiltration (from North Vietnam)."

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holiday 7 (normass/deepe)

He said, without a meeting with the Hanoi regime, the Allied forces would resume fighting after the ~~finish~~ their announced ceasefire period, which would include ~~the~~ bombing of North Vietnam.

He said General Westmoreland and General Vien were in a better position to make a decision on the ~~time~~ length of the ceasefire because they ~~had~~ "have a heavy responsibility for protecting their troops. ~~They are responsible if the other side takes advantage of a longer pause to take advantage to resupply and infiltrate more. The generals are responsible so we must follow their recommendation."~~ They are responsible if the other side takes advantage of a longer pause to ~~take advantage to~~ resupply and ~~infiltrate~~ infiltrate more. The generals are responsible so we must follow their recommendation."

(Hank: sorriest for my over-filing. Will downcut. Will file ~~another~~ short piece ~~tomorrow~~ ^{hope reuter} for Monday's paper, ~~but~~ ^{EYE NEEDED} telex card for Boston transmission) Multithanks ~~you~~).

End Reuter.