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THE BATTALION

Page 4

the "Thieu clique" and the establishment of a government of na-tional concord in Saigon. The French government issued an urgent call for talks to begin between the South Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

Thieu said he believed the Huong government will "take its briefcase to the negotiating table," but he did not give details of how such a move might be carried out.

Thieu linked his resignation directly to the question of emergency aid now being debated in the U.S. Congress. President Ford's appeal for such aid has run into strong opposition with little prospect that military assistance will be approved.

He said that while the Congress is debating lesser figures, the "\$722 million requested by President Gerald Ford is not even enough for South Vietnam's armed forces to stop the North Vietnamese Communist troops, to stabilize the military situation in order to negotiate

firmly. "And the Communists know this," Thieu said. "So all they need

to do is to escalate their attacks to namese people "were not so stupid gain military victory without the that they would believe the Communist propaganda, but it is true need of negotiation.

Thieu resigns

With tears in his eyes, Thieu re- that some in the world, including a peatedly said he was stepping down number of famous politicians, who after nearly eight years of a presi- said if Mr. Thieu continues to redency that saw half a million American troops committed to the war here, then withdrawn and a ceasefire agreement signed that brought no peace.

Thieu said in his rambling, 90-minute address that on March 25 he and the National Assembly had sent a letter to President Ford urging aid to combat the Communistled offensive and a resumption of B52 bombing raids.

"Until this date it has not yet been for his Vietnam negotiations along answered," he said. Thieu declared with Hanoi Politburo member Le that South Vietnamese government forces are greatly outnumbered both in men and equipment by North Vietnamese units now in this country

'The U.S. Congress says that as must be out of here," Thieu said. long as Thieu is in power, there re-mains the war, that Mr. Thieu is a negotiated with the Soviet Union warlord," he said. "But if I leave in and Red China. exchange for more aid, then I think I should leave

He said he was sure the Viet-

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support. He returned repeatedly to the theme that a lack of U.S. aid led

> to the present situation in which Communist-led forces pose a direct threat to Saigon itself.

main in power the Republic of

Thieu did not name the famous

politicians, but he singled out Kis-

singer in another part of his speech,

declaring Kissinger was unable to perceive that the 1973 cease-fire ag-

reement "led the South Vietnamese

Thieu said that Kissinger, who

was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Duc Tho, "accepted the legal pres-

ence of North Vienamese troops in

that the North Vietnamese troops

'I, said that a precondition was

'I want the North Vietnamese

withdrawal. The North Vietnamese

army must withdraw, that is the

natural condition and later will come to a peaceful settlement.'

account of recent military history in

Vietnam, saying South Vietnamese

forces could not achieve what

American forces had failed to gain

backed by vast firepower and air

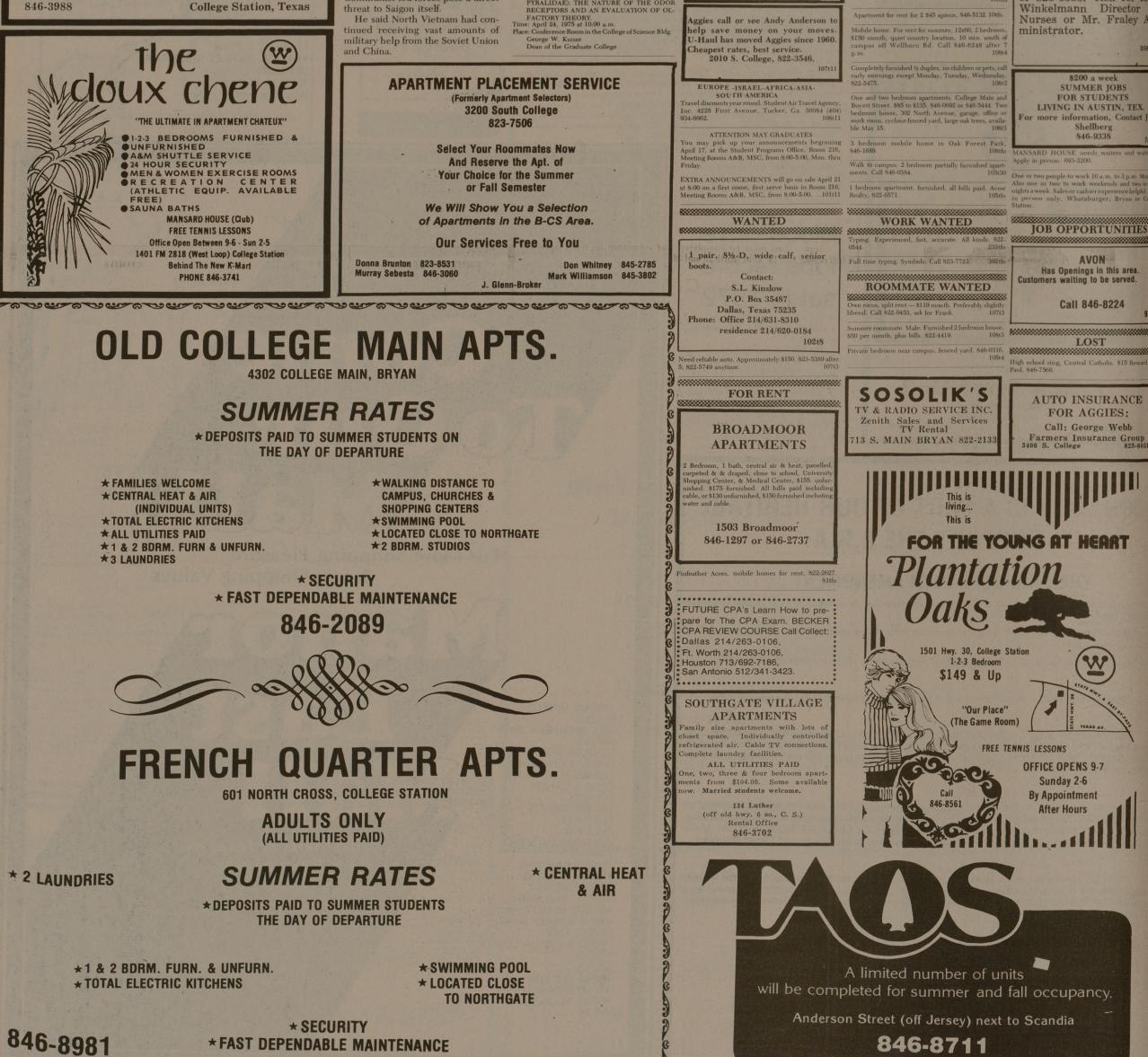
Thieu went back over a detailed

South Vietnam should not be pro-

vided with aid."

people to death.

South Vietnam.'



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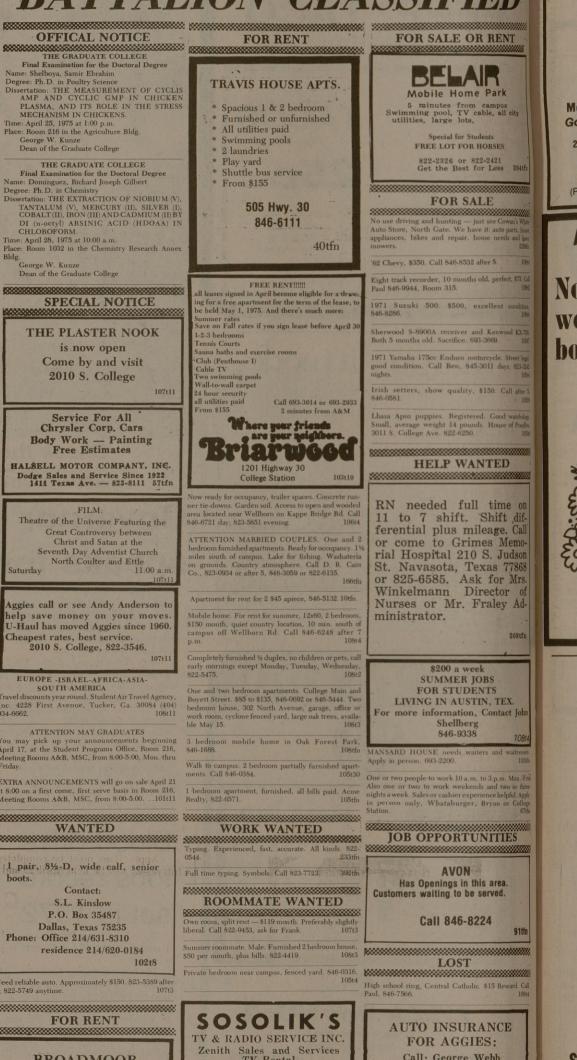
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We hope this information will be helpful and exte

CAROLYN WATSON RING CLERK

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