

negotiators in Paris to hold private talks with the North Vietnamese. Harriman and Vance had found that they got much further in private talks, nowhere in public plenary sessions. Talking during coffee breaks, Harriman and Vance found that the North Vietnamese confided their hopes for peace, how they wanted to get the new American "miracle" rice, and looked forward to cooperation with LBJ's plan for a TVA on the Mekong River.

After taking office, however Mr. Nixon waited seven weeks before authorizing continued private talks.

"Here is a President who said he had a solution for the war over one year ago," one of the Harriman-Vance negotiating team told State Department friends. "But after he becomes President, he does not reveal his secret plan. He waits for four months after becoming President, and then, in a broadcast to the Nation on May 14, he reveals, almost with pride, that he has only the same old Johnson techniques for peace. Meanwhile, American boys are being killed at the rate of 250 a week."

Foot-Dragging on Peace

There's a lot more than meets the eye behind Cyrus Vance's public "join-up" with Dr. Clark Kerr's peacenik committee for Vietnam.

Vance's move results from pent-up frustration over President Nixon's Vietnam policy. This has now reached a point of open dissent, even disgust on the part of Vance and his colleague Averell Harriman.

They, more than any other members of the Johnson Administration, have been closest to the peace talks and know from the inside what has been going on. To old friends in the State Department they have expressed their belief that the Nixon Administration has lost precious time during which, as one of them expressed it, "250 boys have been killed each week."

For seven weeks President Nixon failed to authorize his