

No Serious Plan Offered By Reds, Goldberg Says

By Robert H. Estabrook 3/7/67
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NEW YORK, March 6—Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg said on his return from Vietnam tonight that Hanoi has made "no serious proposal" to end the war.

At the same time he cited "important progress" toward the establishment of constitutional government in South Vietnam.

The Constituent Assembly, he said, is expected to complete work on the new constitution within ten days in preparation for democratic elections with the full cooperation of the Ky government.

Goldberg, United States representative to the United Nations, made his 11-day trip to five Asian countries at the request of President Johnson. He visited Japan, Korea, Taiwan, South Vietnam and the Philippines.

There were indications that he sought to talk with U.N. Secretary General U Thant last night before flying to Washington. Thant returned Sunday from a vacation in his native Burma where he met informally with three representatives of North Vietnam.

Although he emphasized in a press conference at Kennedy Airport that he had carried no peace plan and heard no new proposals, Goldberg acknowledged that he had taken advantage of the opportunity in Saigon to talk with members of the International Control

Commission who have access to Hanoi.

Despite the lack of assurance so far that if the United States halts the bombing of North Vietnam "we will get reciprocity on the other side," he said, this does not mean that a serious proposal may not be presented tomorrow.

The important thing from the standpoint of the United States, he added, is that "the door be kept open."

Goldberg said he had found substantial agreement in the countries he visited with the American resolve that the people of South Vietnam must be allowed to determine their own destiny. They also were in agreement with the search for "an honorable peace under unconditional negotiations."

The Ambassador, who has frequently been identified with the search for a negotiated solution, would not comment directly on the prognosis yesterday by Thant that the war would be "long and bloody" unless the U.S. halted the bombing.