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Nixon Bares Secret Peace

Talks

Kissinger Made Deadline Offer In 13 Paris Trips

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President Nixon disclosed last night in a televised report to the American people that he had sent Henry A. Kissinger to Paris 13 times for secret negotiations with the North Vietnamese on a plan for peace with a deadline for the withdrawal of all American troops from Vietnam.

But he reported no progress

and a reluctance by the North Vietnamese to continue the secret negotiations.

The President said he was making public the stalemated progress of the secret negotiations in an attempt to break the deadlock.

He said that while the Communists were denouncing the United States for not fixing a deadline for total withdrawal, he had offered to agree to a deadline in exchange for the release of all prisoners of war and a cease fire.

The proposal also embraced a promise by President Nguyen Van Thieu to resign and hold new elections.

"We are publishing the full details of our plan tonight," the President said. "It will prove beyond doubt which side has made every effort to make these negotiations succeed. It will show unmistakably that Hanoi — not Washington or Saigon — has made the war go on."

The President said he first sent Kissinger to Paris for secret negotiations on Aug. 4, 1969 and 12 times since then. He has met seven times with

Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese politburo member, and five times with Minister Xuan Thuy, the chief negotiator.

Kissinger is to hold a news conference today to give a report on his negotiating sessions in Paris, the White House announced.

Last Sept. 13, the North Vietnamese rejected a U.S. peace proposal, the President said, and "I decided in October that we should make another attempt to break the deadlock."

On Oct. 11, he said, he sent a private communication to the North Vietnamese with new proposals and urged another secret meeting Nov. 1.

Hanoi responded that they would meet Nov. 20, but on Nov. 17 they said Le Duc Tho was ill. "We offered to meet as soon as Le Duc Tho recovered, with him, or immediately with any other authorized leader who could come from Hanoi," Mr. Nixon said.

"Two months have passed since they called off that meeting. The only reply to our plan has been an increase in troop infiltration from North Vietnam and Communist military offensives in Laos and Cambodia."

The President said that he had instructed Ambassador William J. Porter, chief U.S. negotiator in Paris, to present his plan publicly at the next session of the talks Thursday, "along with alternatives to make it even more flexible."

The President said there also have been other secret negotiations.

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President Bares Secret Peace Talks

PRESIDENT, From A1

"We are ready to negotiate the plan I have outlined tonight and conclude a comprehensive agreement on all military and political issues," Mr. Nixon said.

"Because some parts of this agreement could prove more difficult to negotiate than others, we would be willing to begin implementing certain military aspects while negotiations continue on the implementation of other issues, just as we suggested in our private proposal in October.

Mr. Nixon said the United States, as it privately proposed last May, remains "willing to settle only the military issues and leave the political issues to the Vietnamese alone."

"Under this approach," Mr. Nixon said, "we would withdraw all U.S. and allied forces within six months in exchange for an Indochina ceasefire and the release of all prisoners."

The President said he was renewing his offer publicly in behalf of both the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments "with the full knowledge and approval of President Thieu."

"It is a plan to end the war now. It includes an offer to withdraw all American forces within six months of an agreement; its acceptance would mean the speedy return of all the prisoners of war to their homes."