

Nixon Expects Stepup in Viet Fighting

By Jack Anderson

President Nixon was optimistic until a few weeks ago about achieving a cease-fire in Vietnam before the Nov. 7 election. Now he expects Hanoi to step up the fighting as the election gets closer.

Intelligence reports suggest that fighting on all fronts will be combined with guerrilla activity in the rear to create turmoil in South Vietnam and to undermine confidence in the Saigon government. But the real Communist aim, in Mr. Nixon's opinion, is to give the American voters the impression he can't end the war.

From sources close to the President, we have been told of his bitter disappointment over Hanoi's refusal to accept a cease-fire. He has responded with Cold War rhetoric, which he feels is the best political defense against the expected North Vietnamese offensive. But he would prefer to campaign as a peacemaker.

The story of his diplomatic-military maneuvering to settle the war began four years ago with his campaign promise of a "secret plan" to end the war. This was greeted with derision by Democrats and skepticism by others. But those privy to the President's strategy assure us that he not only had a "secret plan" but that it has come close to succeeding.

Nixon's Secret Plan

His "secret plan" simply was to appeal over Hanoi's head to

Moscow and Peking. He hoped to sit down separately with Russian and Chinese leaders for some straight talk. He thought he could persuade them that U.S. friendship could be more valuable to them than Hanoi's favor.

Without the support of their two great Communist allies, Mr. Nixon figured, the North Vietnamese would be compelled to come to terms. He was willing to offer terms, indeed, that he thought Hanoi would find hard to turn down.

Reaching Moscow and Peking took longer and the diplomacy was more sophisticated than the President had anticipated. But a month ago, it looked as if the scenario would turn out largely as he had foreseen.

He pressed for a cease-fire and the release of American prisoners. In return, he promised that the United States would cease all military activity, withdraw from Vietnam and leave it to the Vietnamese ultimately to settle their own affairs. He also made the point that he would be easier to deal with before his re-election than afterward.

Subsequently, the White House learned that both Moscow and Peking had advised Hanoi that Mr. Nixon would be re-elected and, therefore,

that serious negotiations should be resumed. This led to the secret talks between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho.

The word from Moscow and Peking was so optimistic that the President felt sure he would get a cease-fire. President Thieu, for his part, even agreed to step down and permit an internationally supervised election in South Vietnam. But the negotiations broke down over the question of who would control the interim government.

President Nixon had expected to be able to tell the Republican convention last month how he had kept his end-of-the-war pledge. Instead, he returned to Cold War rhetoric in his acceptance speech, promising not to "betray our allies" nor to "stain the honor of the United States."

Washington Whirl

Secret Rays—CIA officials were intrigued over the Soviet charge that the Americans used mysterious rays and chemicals to defeat Russia's Boris Spassky, the defending world chess champion. A thorough examination of the chess area, of course, produced no trace of hidden rays or chemicals. But the CIA men suspect that the Soviets were holler-

ing about a technique that they, in fact, use. Back in the 1960s, U.S. security men discovered that strange microwave impulses, some steady, some pulsating, were directed into our Moscow embassy from a neighboring building. A CIA investigation turned up Russian medical literature, suggesting that microwaves can cause nervous tension, irritability, even disorders. A secret study produced no conclusive evidence; however, that the mysterious microwaves had any serious effect upon our embassy people.

Curious Coincidence—State highway officials are required by law to submit reports to the federal government explaining how their road projects will affect the environment. Two Washington, D.C. scientists have discovered, however, that the highway officials care so little about their reports that they copy whole sections word-for-word from their colleagues across the country. Drs. James Sullivan and Paul Montgomery of the Center for Science in the Public Interest found identical sentences being used by highway engineers in Reading, Pa.; Waterloo, Iowa; St. Louis, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; Philadelphia; Gadsden, Ala.; Tulsa, Okla., and Chesapeake, Va.