

# U.S. and Britain Split On Troop Issue Timing

By John Maffre  
Washington Post Staff Writer

10/15/66

Britain and the United States disagreed yesterday on a timetable for resolving the problem of how many troops are needed in Europe, and how they are to be financed.

British Foreign Secretary George Brown, in talks here with Secretary of State Dean Rusk, urged that the British-American-German talks scheduled to begin Oct. 20 be concluded by the end of November, so that NATO's Foreign and Defense Ministers could act on the results when they meet in December.

This would enable the British, who face a balance-of-payments crisis in supporting their British Army of the Rhine, to trim the cost—and probably the number of troops—of the forces there.

But American officials said the United States did not agree to Brown's proposal. The American view remains that the talks in Bonn cannot be concluded until mid-January, too late for the NATO meeting.

Britain's concern with protecting the pound dominated the wide-ranging discussions Brown had yesterday, once with President Johnson and twice with Rusk at the State Department. Brown leaves today for Ottawa and then back to London.

"We had a very frank, exceedingly friendly and very close talk," Brown told reporters after more than an hour with the President, including a stroll in the Rose Garden.

"The President let me explain my views about Vietnam," Brown said. "He gave me freely and frankly his

See **PRESIDENT, A10, Col. 1**

Picture, Page A10.

**PRESIDENT—Fr. A1**

## U.S., British Disagree on Troop Issue

his views, which I will take back home with me."

But the normally voluble Brown told reporters he would not go into details of such personal talks.

"I have a certain reputation back home," he said, alluding to his occasional statements that raise eyebrows, "and I don't intend to add to it here."

The President, in a surprise move, took Brown along to a Senate luncheon given for Mr. Johnson before his departure Sunday for Asia.

Brown told the Senators that "it's a help I want to give," referring to the six-point British proposal to end the war in Vietnam.

"I understand only too well the problems and difficulties and the great desire you have to get this thing over honorably and decently," he said.

After Brown's brief Capitol appearance, he rushed back to the State Department to keep a luncheon date with Rusk, followed by a personal call on AFL-CIO President George Meany, an old friend. Last night Brown was host to Rusk at a British Embassy dinner.

Brown and Rusk also discussed the new signs of Russian interest in an agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

The British are known to feel that because Russian Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko has shown a decided new interest in the agreement, the nuclear powers might be on the way to a solution by next spring.

Both the British and the Americans appear to be puzzled at the reason for the revived Russian interest. However, the British feel that the prospect of Israel, Egypt and India acquiring nuclear weapons worries the Kremlin.