

Statement at ADA Session Brings Goldberg Denial

Schlesinger Charges U.S. Avoids Talks

By Murrey Marder

Washington Post Staff Writer

Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. charged yesterday that the United States is deliberately avoiding negotiations on Vietnam now.

Schlesinger, a former White House adviser to President Kennedy and briefly, to President Johnson, said:

"I have no question about the genuineness of President Johnson's wish for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. But the Administration has made it clear, I would judge, that, while negotiation remains its ultimate objective, it does not consider negotiation advantageous at this time.

"Why else, unless it wished to avoid negotiation now, would the Administration have hardened its terms—just at the time that Hanoi is softening its terms—demanding today from Hanoi what it did not demand a year ago—the prior assurance of some reciprocal act as a condition to our ending the bombing of North Vietnam?"

Schlesinger's charge drew an immediate, generalized denial from U.N. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg.

Schlesinger, vice chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, made his statement at an ADA news conference.

"Coalition" Splintered

An ADA foreign policy statement, made public at the conference, said "it is conceivable that for the first time in this century a Democratic President might be turned out of office after only one term" because the "coalition" supporting him "has been so splintered."

On Wednesday, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), like Schlesinger, described President Johnson as "a man of peace," but added: "There are those in the Administration who feel this is not the time to negotiate" over Vietnam.

Goldberg at the White House yesterday reiterated the Administration's adamant denial that it is dragging its feet on negotiations.

"That is untrue," said Goldberg. "We are ready for un-



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Arthur Schlesinger Jr. at ADA foreign policy program.

conditional negotiations today."

Goldberg was reporting to President Johnson on his recent trip to Japan, Korea, South Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines. He told newsmen that on the trip he "emphasized the desire of our Government to keep the door open" for "an honorable settlement through unconditional negotiations."

The Ambassador said he had not yet seen Schlesinger's statement and was not commenting on it directly. He said, "I have personal convictions that a peace settlement will come about through private discussion, in highly secure conditions, when there is a common will to achieve a peaceful settlement."

Schlesinger's position on suspending the American bombing of North Vietnam to try to produce negotiations paralleled Sen. Kennedy's proposal last week, which the Administration massively dis-

missed as "substantially similar" to offers it had made. Schlesinger strongly disagreed.

Schlesinger said he participated in consultations on Kennedy's speech, but not in drafting.

"If we really wanted negoti-

ation," said Schlesinger, "we would have ended the bombing as the Russians suggested, and let the burden of delivering Hanoi to the conference table fall to Moscow."

"But," Schlesinger continued, "if we were seeking an excuse to avoid negotiation, we would do exactly as we have done—ignore the Russians and acknowledge only the most extreme and extravagant proposals from Hanoi."

Schlesinger said "I do not suggest that the Administration's evident desire to postpone negotiations is without rational justification." He said he assumes the reasoning for that is that by further bombing, "Hanoi will be even more anxious to end the war than it is today," giving the U.S. a more favorable negotiating position.

"By this logic we cannot negotiate when we are behind because we are weak; and we can't negotiate either when we are ahead because, if we keep doing what we have been doing, we will be even farther ahead at some later point."

"The time has come," said Schlesinger, "to break the hopeless logic which can never find the right moment for negotiation."