

Some Leaders in Congress Fear a Short-Lived Truce

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 — forces, should the truce be broken.

Congressional leaders, including some prominent opponents of the Indochina war, gave President Nixon a standing ovation after a lengthy White House briefing this morning on the negotiated truce in Vietnam.

But several members of Congress expressed concern that the peace might prove short-lived. One of them, Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, said that he would introduce legislation Friday to bar "re-entry" of American combat forces, including air

The dominant reaction on Capitol Hill, as Senators and Representatives learned—a few at the White House, most by watching television—of the details of the agreement, appeared to be one of gratitude at American disengagement, but no more than frail hope that the war itself was over.

According to several accounts of the private 2-hour-20-minute meeting between Mr. Nixon and the Congressional leaders, the President also alluded to the

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obstacles to permanent peace.

Hugh Scott, the Senate Republican leader, said that Mr. Nixon had spoken of not deviating from the course he had set for the negotiations. He quoted the President as having said, "by pursuing the course, we've got our P.O.W.'s coming back, a peace, however fragile, which we have hopes will endure."

At the same time, Mr. Scott said, the President urged those who had disagreed with his conduct of the war and of the negotiations to understand that, while problems remained in carrying out the settlement, "it would be extremely helpful, while being honest, not to consult our fears but our belief that this is peace with honor."

The Senate Republican leader also quoted Mr. Nixon as having said:

"Thank God for those who stood. Thank God for those who gave their lives. Thank God for those who suffered and for them all. We're damn proud of them."

The White House briefing was conducted by Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security. Both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger answered questions from the congressmen and the President directed Mr. Kissinger to brief the full membership of the Senate and House at the Capitol on Friday.

The participants in the briefing this morning included bipartisan leaders of Congress

and of committees dealing with foreign relations, armed services and appropriations. Several of them said that Mr. Nixon had suggested that economic aid that the United States planned for North Vietnam would depend on a continued demonstration of Hanoi's willingness to abide by the terms of the settlement.

At the White House meeting this morning, Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas and one of the most constant critics of the President's Vietnam policies, congratulated Mr. Nixon for having obtained a settlement.

Mr. Fulbright, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said later in a statement, however, that it was "inevitable that many difficulties will arise out of the liquidation of this long, costly and bitter struggle."

Similar skepticism was apparent in the reply of Mike Mansfield, the Senate Democratic leader. To newsmen who asked him if he thought the agreement would last, Mr. Mansfield said: "Oh, for the time being."

He said that he could "imagine sometime in the future there would be difficulties" between North and South Vietnam.

Representative Ogden R. Reid, Democrat of Westchester, cautioned against "false illusions" about the agreement. "What we have is not true peace, but an armed truce," he said.

Senator Gale McGee, a Wyoming Democrat who has supported Mr. Nixon's policies on the war, warned of "exceedingly difficult days ahead." He noted that the Korean war had been concluded by a truce rather than a peace agreement. He called the Vietnam settlement "an important beginning."