

Texts of Nixon and Ho Chi

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—In an addendum to President Nixon's speech tonight, the White House press office made public the text of the exchange of letters between Mr. Nixon and Ho Chi Minh, the late President of North Vietnam.

July 15, 1969

His Excellency Ho Chi Minh,
President, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Hanoi.

Dear Mr. President:

I realize that it is difficult to communicate meaningfully across the gulf of four years of war. But precisely because of this gulf, I wanted to take this opportunity to reaffirm in all solemnity my desire to work for a just peace. I deeply believe that the war in Vietnam has gone on too long and delay in bringing it to an end can benefit no one—least of all the people of Vietnam.

My speech on May 14 laid out a proposal which I believe is fair to all parties. Other proposals have been made which attempt to give the people of South Vietnam an opportunity to choose their own future. These proposals take into account the reasonable conditions

of all sides. But we stand ready to discuss other programs as well, specifically the 10-point program of the N.L.F.

As I have said repeatedly, there is nothing to be gained by waiting. Delay can only increase the dangers and multiply the suffering.

The time has come to move forward at the conference table toward an early resolution of this tragic war. You will find us forthcoming and open-minded in a common effort to bring the blessings of peace to the brave people of Vietnam. Let history record that at this critical juncture, both sides turned their face toward peace rather than toward conflict and war.

Sincerely,
RICHARD NIXON

Following is the text of the reply, which was received in Paris on Aug. 30, 1969:

Hanoi, Aug. 25, 1969

His Excellency Richard Milhous Nixon
President, of the United States
Washington
Mr. President,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter.

Minh Letters Last Summer

The war of aggression of the United States against our people, violating our fundamental national rights, still continues in South Vietnam. The United States continues to intensify military operations, the B-52 bombings and the use of toxic chemical products multiply the crimes against the Vietnamese people. The longer the war goes on, the more it accumulates the mourning and burdens of the American people. I am extremely indignant at the losses and destructions caused by the American troops to our people and our country. I am also deeply touched at the rising toll of death of young Americans who have fallen in Vietnam by reason of the policy of American governing circles.

Our Vietnamese people are deeply devoted to peace, a real peace with independence and real freedom. They are determined to fight to the end, without fearing the sacrifices and difficulties in order to defend their country and their sacred national rights. The over-all solution in 10 points of the National Liberation Front of South Viet-

nam and of the provisional revolutionary government of the Republic of South Vietnam is a logical and reasonable basis for the settlement of the Vietnamese problem. It has earned the sympathy and support of the peoples of the world.

In your letter you have expressed the desire to act for a just peace. For this the United States must cease the war of aggression and withdraw their troops from South Vietnam, respect the right of the population of the South and of the Vietnamese nation to dispose of themselves, without foreign influence. This is the correct manner of solving the Vietnamese problem in conformity with the national rights of the Vietnamese people, the interests of the United States and the hopes for peace of the peoples of the world. This is the path that will allow the United States to get out of the war with honor.

With goodwill on both sides we might arrive at common efforts in view of finding a correct solution of the Vietnamese problem.

Sincerely,
HO CHI MINH