

NYTimes

NIXON OFFERS NEW PEACE PLAN

JAN 26 1972
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LINKING P. O. W.'S TO A PULLOUT;

PROPOSES AN ELECTION IN SAIGON

CEASE-FIRE URGED

Withdrawal Would Be Completed Within Six Months

Texts of Nixon's address and peace proposal, Page 10.

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 — President Nixon offered tonight a new peace proposal that would include a total cease-fire throughout Indochina, the withdrawal of all United States and allied forces from South Vietnam within six months of Hanoi's acceptance of the proposal, and a political solution for South Vietnam.

The proposed political solution included three major elements:

¶ A new presidential election in South Vietnam.

¶ An agreement by the South Vietnamese President, Nguyen Van Thieu, to resign his office, along with Vice President Tran Van Huong, a month before the new election.

¶ Willingness on Mr. Nixon's part to allow an "independent body" representing all political forces in South Vietnam, including the National Liberation Front, to organize and run the election.

Provision for Prisoners

In exchange for United States agreement to withdraw its troops within six months of a settlement, Mr. Nixon said, North Vietnam would agree, in its part of the bargain, to the "release of all military men and innocent civilians captured throughout Indochina."

The South Vietnamese and American forces would also release their prisoners, and the exchange would be carried out in tandem with the troop withdrawals.

The President presented his latest set of proposals in the course of a dramatic appearance on nationwide television in which he disclosed, in some detail, a series of secret negotiations in Paris between Henry A. Kissinger, his adviser on national security, and the enemy's chief negotiators.

Unable to Revive Talks

Mr. Nixon said he had chosen to disclose the negotiations now in part because many Americans had underestimated what its Government had tried to do to break the negotiating deadlock; in part because the North Vietnamese had created the impression that "the United States has not pursued negotiations intensively"; and in part because it was now his judgment "that the purposes of peace will best be served by bringing out publicly the proposals we have been making in private."

The negotiations, the President said, began Aug. 4, 1961,

Nixon, in Vietnam Peace Offer, Proposes Truce and New Vote

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and on Aug. 16, 1971. Subsequent Administration efforts to get them started again were unavailing.

During the course of the talks, Mr. Nixon said, he had instructed Mr. Kissinger to make in private several major proposals that the President's Democratic opponents have accused him of failing to put before enemy negotiators.

Chief among these, he said, was a proposal offered to the North Vietnamese on May 31, 1971, under which the United States would agree to a deadline for the withdrawal of all American forces in exchange for the release of all prisoners of war and a cease-fire.

That, in essence, has been the substance of a number of resolutions proposed by the Democratic majority in Congress—resolutions the Administration has systematically opposed.

At the next meeting, on June 26, the North Vietnamese rejected the American offer, responding with a counterproposal that—in Mr. Nixon's words—insisted that the United States overthrow the government of South Vietnam.

Hanoi's Seven-Point Plan

Five days later, Mr. Nixon recalled, Hanoi's negotiators publicly unveiled a seven-point package that included the requirement that the United States abandon its support of the Thieu government.

Although a White House official who briefed newsmen tonight would not expand on the differences between the enemy's private and public overtures, Mr. Nixon suggested that his was a somewhat broader proposal, covering all of Indochina. In any event, on July 12, at yet another private meeting in Paris, Mr. Kissinger agreed at North Vietnam's request to deal henceforth with the nine-point private plan.

On Aug. 16 Mr. Kissinger again offered the complete withdrawal of the United States and allied forces, but this time he said the United States would do so nine months after an agreement on over-all settle-

ment. The North Vietnamese, according to the President, rejected that proposal too.

Despite accusations from the North Vietnamese that the United States had failed to respond to its public proposal, Mr. Nixon resolved in October to make another effort and sent what he described as a "private communication" to Paris that contained "new elements."

One major new element, package, a White House official said tonight, was the suggestion that President Thieu, assuming a settlement could be agreed upon, would resign his office one month before the new election. That suggestion was made public tonight as a firm proposal.

Mr. Nixon's speech followed weeks of criticism from some of his Democratic opponents to the effect that he had failed to make a clear public offer to the North Vietnamese to withdraw all American troops by an agreed date in exchange for the release of the American prisoners.

In a television interview with Dan Rather of the Columbia Broadcasting System on Jan. 2, Mr. Nixon said the possibility of a total withdrawal in exchange for the prisoners release had been discussed with the North Vietnamese in Paris but that they had "totally rejected" it.

The next day Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, who met with North Vietnamese officials in Paris last summer, asserted that a formal offer had not in fact been made and that the President was deceiving the public.

No Firm Date Proposed

The day after that Administration officials conceded that the United States had never proposed a firm date but were convinced—on the basis of informal efforts to seek clarifications of Hanoi's attitude—that it would reject such a formula.

The basic reason for their pessimism has been Hanoi's insistence—outlined by Nguyen Van Tien, the Vietcong delegate in Paris, on Jan. 6 and again in a response to questions put to Hanoi by The News-

See NYTimes
8 Mar 72,
"A Peking-
Hanoi Plan
Reportedly
Aborted."
This file.

Washington: For the Record

Jan. 25, 1972

THE PRESIDENT

Activities. The President addressed the nation by television and radio.

MAJOR POSITIONS

Defense. The President nominated Kenneth Rush, 62, of Rye, N. Y., as Deputy Secretary of Defense. Mr. Rush will replace David Packard, whose resignation was accepted by the President effective Dec. 13, 1971.

Telecommunications. The President nominated Eberhardt Bechtin, 46, of Rockville, Md., to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Telecommunications. This is a new position created by Public Law 92-215 of Dec. 22, 1971.

CONGRESS

Floor Action

Foreign. The House approved, 209-179, and sent to the President a bill to authorize \$2.75-billion in foreign economic and military aid for the current fiscal year ending next June 30.

York Times—that the United States must not only withdraw its forces but also abandon support for the Saigon government before the prisoners would be released.

Earlier in the day, before the speech, many Democrats said that an offer in good faith to end United States military participation in Vietnam in exchange for release of the prisoners might help defuse the war issue on Capitol Hill.

Democratic Senators had just voted in a previously scheduled caucus to support a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all United States forces in phased steps that would be matched by a corresponding series of phased releases of the prisoners. The resolution also calls for negotiations with North Vietnam for an immediate cease-fire.

Even if Mr. Nixon decided not to announce a definite date for total withdrawal, some Democrats said before the speech, a firm promise to set such a date might help him

politically whether Hanoi rejects his suggestion or not.

If it is rejected, they reasoned, Mr. Nixon could no longer be accused of failing to try a new approach—an approach urged upon him by many Democrats. In the unlikely event the offer was accepted, they went on, Mr. Nixon could claim progress toward release of the prisoners and a breakthrough in the stalemated dialogue with the enemy while leaving open for negotiation the exact departure date of the American troops.

Speculation about the speech began in earnest last night after Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, told the Greater Boston Young Republicans Club that he thought Mr. Nixon would make some sort of offer to the North Vietnamese very soon.

Senator Hugh Scott, Republican of Pennsylvania, the minority leader, said much the same thing today in an interview with United Press International. In a recorded report from Washington Senator Robert Packwood, Republican of Oregon, said that "he had reason to believe" that the President would offer a deal to Hanoi, "within the next 48 hours."

White House spokesmen said this morning that they knew of no meetings in the last few days between key Senate Republicans and the President relating to the speech. Mr. Nixon did brief Congressional leaders at the White House 90 minutes before he went on the air.

The White House also said that Mr. Nixon had not met with William O. Porter, chief United States delegate to the Paris peace talks, but Mr. Porter was said to have conferred privately yesterday with Secretary of State William P. Rogers to discuss details of the United States proposal.