

FOE AGAIN INSISTS U.S. SET PULLOUT AND EXPEL THIEU

JAN 28 1972

But Reply to American Plan at Paris Session Is Not Seen as Flat Rejection

FURTHER RESPONSE DUE NYTimes

Thuy, Noting Nixon Bared Secret Talks, Doesn't Rule Out Resumption

By HENRY GINIGER
Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 27—The Vietnamese Communists insisted at the peace talks here today that there can be no Vietnam settlement until the United States first sets a specific date for total military withdrawal and ousts the present South Vietnamese Government.

They presented this position, a restatement of their publicly stated program for ending the war, in response to the latest eight-point United States peace plan, which was formally put forward at today's session.

The United States plan, which was conveyed to the North Vietnamese in a secret message last October and was disclosed by President Nixon in a telecast Tuesday, offers total withdrawal six months after an agreement is reached in principle on ending the war. It also calls for a new presidential election in South Vietnam at that time, with President Nguyen Van Thieu resigning beforehand.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

other points of an over-all settlement, including elections.

"However, in connection with troop withdrawals," Mr. Porter warned, "I wish to make it clear that although they could start on the date of the agreement in principle, they would not be totally completed before a final agreement on all aspects of the problem is signed."

Mr. Thuy objected that any agreement on withdrawal would be hindered by political discussions. Mr. Porter then asked him whether the North Vietnamese wished to separate the two matters, as the United States had proposed in secret talks last May. Mr. Thuy did not reply.

Kissinger's Explanation

Yesterday, Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's assistant for national security affairs, who held 12 secret meetings with the North Vietnamese in Paris, said at a news conference in Washington that the United States had offered on May 31 "a withdrawal of American forces."

"We were prepared to set a deadline for the withdrawal of American forces in return for a cease-fire and the exchange of prisoners," he said, but he added that the North Vietnamese had then replied "that any proposal that did not include political elements could not even be negotiated."

President Nixon said in his telecast Tuesday that the United States remained willing "as we proposed last May" to settle "only the military issues and leave the political issues to the Vietnamese alone."

While Mr. Thuy made no direct reply when Mr. Porter asked whether the North Vietnamese now wanted to deal with the military aspects separately from the political, the program for ending the war that the Communists restated demands that an American agreement to withdraw be accompanied by the removal of the Thieu Government before prisoners can be returned.

Distrust Shown

The reactions today of Mr. Thuy and of Nguyen Van Tien, deputy chief of the Vietcong delegation, to Mr. Porter's presentation, which centered on the eight-point plan, showed a deep distrust of American intentions. The Communists asserted that the plan did not specify "whether the United States has the intention to pull out from South Vietnam the totality of its troops, military advisers, military personnel, armaments and war materials, whether it will dismantle its military bases in South Vietnam and stop using its air and naval forces to attack the two zones of Vietnam as has been pro-

posed in the seven-point plan," which was put forward last year by the Vietcong.

Mr. Porter said the American plan called for "total withdrawal."

"There is no provision," he added, "for military personnel, military equipment or the use of bases in South Vietnam after that withdrawal is complete."

The Communists charged that the American plan was "a maneuver to maintain the ad-

ministrative, military and police apparatus in Saigon" even though the plan proposes that President Thieu would resign one month before any new presidential election. This apparatus they said, was used to "terrorize" the populace last October, when Mr. Thieu was re-elected without opposition.

The Communists charged further that the United States had not been neutral in that election as it had promised,

"and has done everything to consolidate the position" of Mr. Thieu.

Mr. Porter insisted that the elections would be handled, as the American proposal provided, by independent machinery under international supervision. He reiterated assurances that the United States would in no way be involved in the election and would abide by the outcome.

U.S. Aide Comments

To the United States delegation the Communist response today fell short of a categorical rejection. But Stephen J. Ledogar, the American spokesman, said afterward, "I am not trying to hold out hopes or to encourage expectations."

At today's session, the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong denounced every major point of the Nixon peace initiative, and the North Vietnamese attacked Mr. Nixon for disclosing the secret talks. But at no time, it was reported, did they use any word amounting to rejection.

In fact, the North Vietnamese delegate, Xuan Thuy, declared:

"We shall have other comments to make on President Nixon's Jan. 25 speech and on the U.S. Government's eight-point proposal."

Impugns Nixon's Credibility

Mr. Thuy, asserting that the President had broken a promise not to divulge the secret talks, added, "If Mr. Nixon cannot keep such a promise, then what credibility will his other statements have?"

Nevertheless, the North Vietnamese did not rule out a resumption of secret talks. The delegation's spokesman said that the format of the talks was not important and that the North Vietnamese attitude would be made known "at an opportune time."

The American initiative was formally presented at the 142d plenary session of the peace talks by Pham Dang Lam of South Vietnam, with additional explanation from William J. Porter, the United States delegate.

In discussing the eight-point American plan, Mr. Porter called on the Communists to accept it "in complete form as an over-all agreement in principle." Subsequently, he said, it would be possible "to begin implementing certain military aspects of the agreement," such as withdrawal and prisoner exchange, while negotiations continued on

Continued on Page 8, Column 1