

U.S. Releases Its Own Text Of Hanoi Peace Proposals

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—The Nixon Administration today released its own text of the nine-point peace proposal it received from North Vietnam last June 26 and reiterated its willingness to try to negotiate an agreement on the basis of its provisions.

Except for minor grammatical differences, the text is virtually identical with the version made public by the North Vietnamese in Paris yesterday and published today in The New York Times.

In answer to a question, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that "of course" the United States was willing to negotiate on the basis of the North Vietnamese plan. "It has been on the table for months and that is what we have been negotiating about," he said.

Mr. Ziegler also acknowledged that Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, had turned down a North Vietnamese proposal that he meet alone secretly with Xuan Thuy, the head of Hanoi's delegation at the peace talks, in Paris on Nov. 20. His contention was that the negotiation could not be productive unless the North Vietnamese minister was accompanied by a member of Hanoi's political leadership.

Negotiations Deadlocked

At the same time, Administration sources said, the North Vietnamese failed to respond to an American suggestion that they send another member of the North Vietnamese Politburo in place of Le Duc Tho, a senior Politburo member, who was reported ill at the time. They also failed to empower Mr. Thuy to make substantive decisions in the private talks, the sources said.

Thus, from the record as revealed by both the Nixon Administration and North Vietnam, it appears that it was

Hanoi that cut off the secret negotiations at the Politburo level and the United States that declined to continue them at the working level.

The net result was that the private negotiation between the two sides, which had been under way since August, 1969, settled into a deadlock that still continues.

Accusation by Hanoi

The question of which side was responsible for the cancellation of the Nov. 20 meeting was raised yesterday when a spokesman of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris charged at a news conference that it was the United States that had cut off the talks.

President Nixon, in his televised address to the nation last Tuesday, asserted that it was the North Vietnamese who had "called off" the Nov. 20 meeting. He noted in the speech that Mr. Kissinger had met seven times in Paris with Mr. Tho and Mr. Thuy, and five times with Mr. Thuy alone.

The rationale for the American refusal to meet with Mr. Thuy alone on Nov. 26 was presented by Mr. Kissinger in his news conference last Wednesday. He said that on Nov. 17, three days before the scheduled meeting, North Vietnam advised Washington that Mr. Tho was ill.

"Now everyone who has been engaged in these negotiations knows that in his absence no major change can occur," Mr. Kissinger said, referring to Mr. Tho.

"We tested it ourselves in our experience by meeting five times with Minister Xuan Thuy, whom we respect," he continued. "It is no reflection on Minister Xuan Thuy, it is simply a fact of the power relationship in Hanoi, that Le Duc Tho, being a member of the Politburo, has authority that no official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has."

Neither Mr. Kissinger nor

any other Administration official, however, has explained why it was not possible to have some lower-ranking United States official, such as William J. Porter, the chief of the United States negotiating team in Paris, meet with Mr. Thuy so as to sustain the momentum of the talks.

A precedent for this was established on Oct. 11, when an official other than Mr. Kissinger—the Administration has declined to reveal who—presented the latest and most comprehensive of the American plans to the North Vietnamese. Instead of offering a substitute for Mr. Kissinger, the United States replied on Nov. 19 that in light of Mr. Tho's illness, "no point would be served by a meeting."