

U.S. MINES RIED PORTS

President Orders the North Sealed Off
From Arms Flow

Nixon Says Both Sea And Land Routes Will Be Severed

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

President Nixon announced last night that he has ordered the mining of all North Vietnamese ports and taken other measures to prevent the flow of arms and other military supplies to the enemy.

Mr. Nixon told a nationwide television and radio audience that his orders were being executed as he spoke.

From the President's somber and stern speech and from explanations by other Administration officials, the following picture of the American action emerged:

- All major North Vietnamese ports will be mined. Ships of other countries in the harbors, most of which are Russian, will have three "daylight periods" in which to leave. After that the mines will become active and ships coming or going will move at their own peril.
- U.S. naval vessels will not search or seize ships of other countries entering or leaving North Vietnamese ports, thus avoiding a direct clash with the Russians.
- American and South Vietnamese ships and planes will take "appropriate measures" to stop North Vietnam from unloading material on beaches from unmined waters.
- U.S. and South Vietnamese forces will interdict (halt) presumably by bomb-

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ing, the movement of material in North Vietnam over rail lines originating in China.

The President's speech also appealed to the Soviet Union not to let its support of North Vietnam lead it to a crisis with the U.S. over his decision to try to cut off supplies to North Vietnam.

CONFUSION

There was much confusion here last night about whether the U.S. and South Vietnam had proclaimed a blockade. The President did not use the word and Pentagon spokesmen denied that a blockade existed in the technical sense. But some observers felt that the practical effect on North Vietnam of the President's actions would be the same as a blockade.

Mr. Nixon said the mining, the attacks on the rail lines within North Vietnam, and the efforts to halt the movement of supplies by

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water would cease the moment the enemy agreed to two basic conditions: The return of American prisoners of war, and an internationally supervised cease-fire.

"Then," he said, "we will stop all acts of force throughout Indochina and proceed with the complete withdrawal of all forces within four months."

PROPOSAL

The White House would not say whether, in these words, Mr. Nixon was in effect making the North Vietnamese a new peace proposal.

But it was noted that he mentioned no political requirements for American withdrawal. Until now he has always insisted on some form of free presidential elections in South Vietnam to be organized under the terms of his proposal of January 25 by an independent commission composed of all of South Vietnam's political elements.

By his choice of conciliatory language, Mr. Nixon appeared anxious to avoid turning the Vietnam war into a direct Soviet-American clash.

But the mining of North Vietnam's ports did raise the possibility not only of cancellation of Mr. Nixon's scheduled trip to the Soviet Union two weeks from now, but also of a military clash if Soviet naval forces try to thwart his actions.

Visit

Officially, the administration said last night that plans for Mr. Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union were still going ahead. A ranking official, however, said that chances for its actually taking place had sharply receded because of the tensions sure to be raised as the result of the declared American effort to prevent supplies from arriving in North Vietnam by sea.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin was informed of Mr. Nixon's speech at a White House meeting with Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security affairs adviser, about an hour before it was delivered.

In his speech, Mr. Nixon urged the Soviet leaders to put pressure on North Vietnam to end its offensive against South Vietnam. He said that when Kissinger made his secret trip to Moscow April 20-24, Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist party leader, and other Soviet officials "showed an interest in bringing the war to an end on a basis just to both sides."

At the close of his speech, Mr. Nixon said he wanted to "particularly direct my comments to the Soviet Union."

He said that the U.S. respects the Soviet Union as a great power and "we recognize the right of the Soviet Union to defend its interests when they are threatened."

But Mr. Nixon said that Russia must also appreciate the U.S. "right to defend our interests."

"No Soviet soldiers are threatened in Vietnam, 60,000 Americans are threatened," he said.

"We expect you to help your allies, and you cannot expect us to do other than to continue to help our allies. But let us, and let all great powers, help our allies only for the purpose of their

defense — not for the purpose of launching invasions against their neighbors," Mr. Nixon said.

"Otherwise, the cause of peace, the cause in which we both have so great a stake will be seriously jeopardized," he said.

U.N.C.

Minutes after Mr. Nixon's speech, the State Department released the text of a letter from the U.S. representative at the United Nations, George Bush, to the

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Securities Council, outlying the President's actions and the administration's reasons for them. Bush's letter cited Article 51 of the UN Charter and called the President's actions "measures of collective self-defense" by the U.S. and South Vietnam.

Mr. Nixon's address came amid considerable tension here over the course of the war, and followed weeks of speculation about the actions he might eventually take to stem the six-week-old enemy offensive, reverse the declining fortunes of the South Vietnamese and fulfill his pledge to prevent an "enemy takeover."

The President added to the speculation and the sense of drama Sunday by ordering Secretary of State William P. Rogers to break off a European tour and return home for consultations on the war.

Yesterday morning, the President, Rogers and other members of the National Security Council met at the White House for slightly under three hours to debate the choices open to the President or — alternatively — to discuss decisions that Mr. Nixon himself, in consultation with Kissinger, may have already made in the solitude of his retreat at Camp David where he spent the weekend.

In addition to the President, Rogers and Kissinger, those attending included: Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, Vice President Agnew; George A. Lincoln, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and a statutory member of the council; Richard Hems, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and John B. Connally, Secretary of the Treasury.

Connally was also said to have consulted with the President yesterday, as he worked on the draft of his speech. The Texas Democrat has publicly and privately identified himself as an unswerving supporter of Mr. Nixon's resumption of the bombing attacks on the north, and it was during a visit to Connally's Texas ranch on April 30 that Mr. Nixon warned the North Vietnamese again they were taking "a great risk if they continue their offensive in the south."

PREVIEW

Last night, an hour before the speech, Mr. Nixon met with congressional leaders from both parties to review his speech and explain his position.

The meeting with the leaders was seen here as at least a partial response to a request delivered earlier in the day by the Senate Democratic caucus for a conference with the President.

The future of Rogers' European trip — originally designed to brief allied leaders on the President's scheduled meeting with Soviet leaders in Moscow — was left in doubt.

The State Department said the Secretary would not be returning to Europe immediately and that no final decisions about the rest of the journey had been made. There were indications here that planned stops in France, Italy and Spain would be scrapped because of the need for Rogers to remain here.