

14 Senators Urge Nixon Seek Truce At Vietnam Talks

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By TERENCE SMITH

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 — Fourteen Senators, including the Democratic and Republican leaders, urged President Nixon today to propose a comprehensive standstill cease-fire for South Vietnam at the stalemated peace talks in Paris.

In a letter to the White House, the Senators described their proposal as "a course of action that has not yet been tried, but which we believe could move us towards a just and responsible peace."

"A proposal at this time for an over-all cease-fire by all parties throughout Vietnam," the Senators wrote, "could present a new context for the Paris negotiations, give fresh and added meaning to our previous proposals and create a new impetus for the other side to respond."

The letter was drafted and circulated by Senator Henry

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

14 Senators Ask Nixon to Seek Truce in Vietnam

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington. A firm supporter of both the Johnson and Nixon Administrations' war policies, Mr. Jackson has slightly softened his hawkish stand recently during a primary-election campaign against Carl Maxey, an attorney from Spokane who is an outspoken peace candidate.

The letter was signed by both hawkish and dovish Senators, Democrats and Republicans. Besides Senator Jackson, there were the following:

Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader; Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader; Birch Bayh of Indiana, Warren G. Magnuson of Washington; Allen Bible of Nevada and Thomas J. McIntyre of New Hampshire, all Democrats; and Robert J. Dole of Kansas, Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Jacob K. Javits of New York, Winston Prouty of Vermont, Charles H. Percy of Illinois, Milton R. Young of North Dakota and Theodore F. Stevens of Alaska, all Republicans.

Free Elections Sought

They urged the President to offer details in Paris for an "international peace-keeping machinery" to oversee the cease-fire, for free elections supervised by a mixed electoral commission composed of the South Vietnamese Government, the National Liberation

Front and other political and religious forces in South Vietnam, and for safeguards to assure freedom of speech, assembly and the press in South Vietnam after the cease-fire.

The senators also recommended that proposals on the withdrawal of all foreign forces and on the release of all prisoners, political as well as military, be submitted as part of the cease-fire package.

In conclusion, they urged the President to make such a proposal the "next order of business" at Paris and offered to meet with him to discuss their idea in detail.

At the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., Ronald L. Ziegler, the presidential press secretary, welcomed the Senators' proposal and described it

as "generally consistent with the United States position." He added that the President had not yet had an opportunity to review the contents of the letter in detail.

Mr. Ziegler said that Mr. Nixon had often expressed "a willingness to discuss arrangements for a cease-fire." But he added that the Communist negotiators in Paris "remain unwilling to engage in meaningful negotiations."