

Congress Will Be Consulted

Washington

Henry A. Kissinger promised members of Congress yesterday that the Administration would consult with them before making any firm commitments to North Vietnam on postwar aid programs.

On the eve of today's formal signing of the Vietnam cease-fire accord, Kissinger made an unusual trip to Capitol Hill to brief senators and representatives on the terms of the agreement which he initialed with Le Duc Tho in Paris last Tuesday.

According to congressmen who attended the two closed-door sessions — one for each house of Congress — Kissinger said that although the agreement calls for the U.S. to contribute to "postwar reconstruction" in North Vietnam and other countries of Indochina, no commitments have yet been made.

Last year Mr. Nixon said the U.S. was contemplating giving \$7.5 billion in postwar assistance over five years, of which up to \$2.5 billion would be earmarked for Hanoi.

But Kissinger at his news conference on Wednesday said that discussions about future aid would take place only after the implementation of the agreement "is well advanced."

As Kissinger was briefing senators in a room off the Senate floor, two anti-war senators, Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) and Clifford P. Case (Rep-N.J.), introduced a bill which would prohibit, without congressional approval, the involvement of U.S. military forces in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia after the last prisoners of war are released, 60 days after the cease-fire accord is signed.

Their bill was opposed on the floor by assistant Republican leader Robert P. Griffin of Michigan who argued that such a measure would encourage North Vietnam to violate the agreement.

"It would be foolhardy in the extreme," he said, for Congress to enact a measure which would "say to the enemy that you can disregard the agreement and be assured in advance that you can do so with impunity."

According to Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep - Ill.), Kissinger refused to say what the United States might or might not do if North Vietnam violated the accord. But several who attended either the Senate or House briefing reported that Kissinger said the administration believes the accord would be upheld.

One congressman said Kissinger also indicated that the United States believes the government of Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam should come out ahead politically in the forthcoming contest with the Viet Cong.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Dem - Mont.), said Kissinger repeated that there are no "secret agreements." Mansfield also said that he was satisfied from the briefing that the United States would not "re-enter" Vietnam again.

Kissinger's appearance on Capitol Hill was an effort by the administration to meet congressional criticism that top White House aides have been unresponsive to requests from Congress for briefings. These critics have wanted the aides to appear before regular committee hearings, but Mr. Nixon has refused to permit Kissinger to testify on the grounds of "executive privilege."

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