

# Demos Expect Nixon Bombshell

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WASHINGTON — The Democratic National Committee, wary of a political bombshell from Peking, speculated today that an announcement of a comprehensive settlement of the Vietnam War during President Nixon's trip to China "is clearly within the realm of the possible."

The possibility was raised by FACT, a newsletter of the Democratic National Committee which obviously wanted to be on the record in advance approving a settlement if the President were able to arrange such a

dramatic move during his Peking visit.

"Democrats would be found in the front ranks of those cheering a presidential announcement in Peking that the Vietnam War was settled," said FACT.

The democratic newsletter went on to thicken the plot by speculating on the possibility of a secret Asian summit to end the war in Indochina.

The Democratic speculation, it was understood, is not based on new information but on a political evaluation of recent administration moves.

It could also be a Demo-

cratic effort to hypo public expectations to the point that any result of the Peking meeting less than a Vietnam settlement would be disappointing.

Democratic strategists, who declined to be identified, suggested that the administration's concerted denunciation of Sen. Edmund Muskie for his criticism of the President's peace proposals may have been a calculated effort to put the Democratic front-runner alone on center stage — "where he would be caught in the middle of a Chinese tiger trap if Nixon can spring it," said one.

"Why else would the administration go out of its way to push Muskie forward as the hero of the peace movement that it knows has a lot of popularity right now?" said another.

"Maybe the administration knows it is in position to cut him off at the knees at the Peking meeting."

Although the President has cautioned against expecting dramatic results, the Democrats showed they were worried enough by the potentials of the President's trip that they were preparing in advance a fallback position.

"Given Mr. Nixon's addic-

tion to surprise announcements," said FACT, "coupled with his repeated statements not to expect any major breakthroughs in Peking, it would seem plausible that something big is in the works."

The Democratic newsletter continued with its scenario of how the President could work out a settlement:

"A secret summit of leaders from the Asian Communist nations — meeting with Mr. Nixon in Peking — would agree to an immediate cease fire throughout Indochina and to the release of all American POWs by Aug. 15.

"Mr. Nixon would pledge the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina by the same date. President Thieu (of South Vietnam) would resign in the immediate future and agree to the creation of a new government of national accord containing representatives of all elements of South Vietnamese society and to a three-month election campaign culminating in national elections in mid-November or early December.

"To dramatize the settlement, Mr. Nixon would bring two POWs back to the United States."