

Nixon Orders Blockading of Enemy Ports
And Gives 3-Day Deadline for Mining them

MAY 9 1972

SPEAKS TO NATION

NYTimes

States Position After
 3-Hour Meeting of
 Security Council

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 8 — President Nixon announced tonight that he had ordered the mining and blockading of North Vietnamese ports and would take other actions—including strikes at rail lines—to “keep the weapons of war out of the hands of the international outlaws” in Hanoi.

Mr. Nixon said that other countries with ships in the principal ports of North Vietnam would have “three daylight periods” to get them out in safety. At that time, he said, the mines would become active.

Appearing before a nationwide radio and television audience nine hours after meeting with his National Security Council to discuss his decision, Mr. Nixon said that the mining and the attacks on the rail lines would cease when the enemy agreed to two basic conditions: 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 troops within four months.”

Tension Over the War

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

The President added to the speculation and the sense of drama yesterday by ordering Secretary of State William P. Rogers to break off a European tour and return home for urgent consultations on the war at a meeting of the National Security Council, the Government's principal foreign policy body.

Those attending the three-hour council meeting, in addition to the President, Mr. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger, the national security adviser, were Melvin R. Laird, the Secretary of Defense; Vice President Agnew; George A. Lincoln, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and a statutory member of the council; Richard Helms, director of Central Intelligence; Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and John B. Connally, the Secretary of the Treasury.

Connally Backs Policy

Mr. Connally was also said to have consulted with the President this afternoon, as he worked on the draft of his speech. The Texas Democrat has identified himself as an

Continued on Page 18, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

unswerving supporter of Mr. Nixon's policy of stepping up the bombing attacks on the north. It was during a dinner at Mr. Connally's ranch on April 30 that Mr. Nixon warned the North Vietnamese again that they were taking “a very great risk if they continue their offensive in the South.”

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

This meeting was regarded as at least a part response to a request delivered earlier in the day by the Senate Democratic caucus for a conference with the President.

The caucus voted to defer debate on an amendment now before the Senate, sponsored by Senators Clifford Case, Republican of New Jersey, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, until the senators could learn more about the President's plans.

The Case-Church amendment would cut off funds for all United States hostilities in Indochina by the end of this year, subject to the freeing of American prisoners.

Meeting Requested

Simultaneously, the caucus instructed its leaders to request a meeting with the President that would include not only the leaders but ranking Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations, Armed Services, an Appropriations Committee in order to “determine what may be the Administration's plans” so that “individual Senators may act accordingly in line with their convictions on the basis of more adequate information.”

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

The State Department said the Secretary would not be returning to Europe tonight, 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 Mr. Rogers to remain here.

The Secretary had visited Iceland, Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg and had just arrived in West Germany when he was called home by Mr. Nixon to take part in this morning's council meeting.

Tonight's address came less than two weeks after his announcement on nationwide television of the planned withdrawal of 20,000 more American troops from Vietnam, to reduce the authorized troop strength in South Vietnam to 49,000 men by July 1. In that speech, delivered April 26, Mr. Nixon also expressed some optimism about future developments on the battlefield and at the Paris peace talks. The talks have since been suspended, and the situation on the battlefield has deteriorated.