

# Kissinger Says New Plan Hands Political Issues to Vietnamese

## President's Aide Holds Out Hope That Hanoi Will Find Proposals Acceptable

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WASHINGTON, May 9—

Henry A. Kissinger today described the peace proposal outlined by President Nixon last night as a modification of previous American offers and said it would "leave the determination of Vietnam's political future to the Vietnamese."

Despite the negotiating stalemate, Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security, held out the hope that the North Vietnamese might accept the offer because of their improved position on the battlefield.

Speaking at a news conference at the White House, Mr. Kissinger said that although Hanoi had been pressing for a political settlement involving the replacement of the Saigon Government, the Communist side might soon conclude that "it has now proved its military capacity to a point where it could afford a purely military solution."

The proposal put forward by Mr. Nixon last night in his televised address to the nation offers precisely that: the withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam within four months and a cessation of "all acts of force throughout Indochina," provided North Vietnam agrees to an internationally supervised cease-fire and the return of all American prisoners of war.

The two new ingredients in the plan, Administration officials said, are the four-month period and the pledge to cease "all acts of force" throughout Indochina.

### A Broader Formulation

Previously, the United States has proposed a six-month withdrawal period and an all-Indochina cease-fire. The pledge to stop "all acts of force throughout Indochina" is a formulation that, officials said, would specifically include United States air and naval forces stationed outside Vietnam. The officials said the phrase was designed to relieve North Vietnamese fears that American planes operating from bases in Thailand or from aircraft carriers off the coast might be excluded.

As Mr. Kissinger has before, he said the United States remained ready to negotiate either a comprehensive political-military solution or a purely military one. The latest offer involves only the latter, he added, "because we have a deadlock in the political field."

Companion story by Seymour M. Hersh, "View in Paris Is That Status of Thieu Remains Central to Deadlock in Talks," filed POWs.

Text of Kissinger press conference filed POWs.

He began his news conference with a long account of the secret communications that have passed between Hanoi and Washington since Jan. 25, when President Nixon disclosed the details of more than a year of private contacts.

Beginning on Jan. 25 — the two sides exchanged messages proposing and counter-proposing dates for private meetings. The series culminated in the unproductive private session between Mr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Communist party Politburo, in Paris last Tuesday.

In a voice rising with emotion, Mr. Kissinger asserted that Mr. Tho had refused to negotiate and had responded by reading previously published Communist demands.

### 'It Had Taken Six Months'

"It had taken six months to set up the meeting and innumerable exchanges," he said, "and when we got there, what we heard could have been clipped from a newspaper and sent to us in the mail."

The political negotiations broke down, he continued, over the demand that the United States agree to the imposition of a de facto Communist government in Saigon before the start of the cease-fire and discussion of other issues. This the United States would never agree to, he said.

Another Communist demand is the immediate resignation of South Vietnam's President, Nguyen Van Thieu, whom Hanoi views as the symbol of the "puppet" regime in Saigon and the American presence there. However, Mr. Kissinger indicated that this and other points could be negotiated if North Vietnam would give up its insistence that the United States agree to the imposition of an avowedly Communist government in Saigon.

Answering newsmen's questions, Mr. Kissinger declined to say whether the United States would require in a cease-fire agreement that the North Vietnamese Army units that have advanced into South Vietnam withdraw beyond the demilitarized zone. Senior Administration officials, including Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, have listed that as a requirement for cessation of the bombing of the North.

Mr. Kissinger left the point deliberately vague, saying only that the United States stood ready to negotiate and would approach the talks in a generous spirit.