

AUG 21 1972

Rogers Is Optimistic on End of War

SFChronicle
N.Y. Times Service

Washington

Secretary of State William P. Rogers said in an interview published yesterday that he is convinced a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war will be achieved either before the November elections or shortly thereafter.

But the Nixon administration later cautioned newsmen against drawing too much encouragement from Rogers' optimistic prediction.

Herbert G. Klein, the administration's Chief of Communications, said in a televised interview that he views Rogers' statement "as more a hope than any pinned-down date."

KISSINGER

Other officials also supported Klein's comments and added that Rogers, when he gave the interview last Wednesday, was not basing his remarks on any breakthrough on the diplomatic front by Henry A. Kissinger. *116 hrs.*

Kissinger, the President's top aide on national security, who returned to Washington last night after meeting in Paris with North Vietnamese negotiators last Monday and in Saigon on Thursday and Friday with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam.

Kissinger met with President Nixon and Rogers Saturday night at Camp David, the President's Maryland retreat, but the White House has released no details of what Kissinger reported about his mission — which concluded with talks in Japan with top Japanese leaders.

There had been some speculation that Mr. Nixon would use the occasion of this week's Republican convention to announce a dramatic breakthrough on the Vietnam front. But Klein, on the National Broadcasting Co.'s "Meet the Press," said "I expect no major developments this week" on Vietnam.

This was confirmed by other administration sources who said that the situation

See Back Page

From Page 1

— as far as they knew — remained stalemated as it did before Kissinger's travels.

North Vietnam also seemed interested in scotching rumors about a breakthrough. Radio Hanoi said yesterday that such reports are part of a "smokescreen spread by Nixon at this moment aimed at the presidential race."

Rogers' interview with the Knight newspaper chain was given with the understanding that it would be published at the start of the Republican convention week.

At the beginning of the interview, Rogers said that North Vietnam was intractable at the negotiating table.

'TAKEOVER'

"If you analyze the position of the other side, it is simply this—a military takeover of South Vietnam. They want us to leave and stop giving any economic or military assistance to the South Vietnamese, and impose a government of their choosing on the people of South Vietnam," he said.

"Now, that is unacceptable," Rogers said.

He said if the United States did that, "we would be

reneging on everything we have represented and everything we have stood for."

When the interviewer interpreted Rogers' remarks as indicating that the prospects for peace were slim, Rogers adopted a more optimistic tone.

SETTLEMENT

"I think that either we will have a negotiated settlement before the elections, which I think is a possibility, or we will have one very soon after President Nixon's reelection, because I think that the North Vietnamese are having serious military, economic and psychological difficulties," he said.

"The role of several of their allies indicated that in the international field most nations feel that the war should be ended by negotiation. And so I think that will be the inevitable result of these pressures," Rogers continued.

In answer to another question, Rogers gave four reasons why he thought the North Vietnamese will "want to work out a settlement":

The first was his belief that Hanoi's invasion of South Vietnam "has not been successful."

NO CONTINUATION