

Britain Backs Nixon, Seeks Further Geneva Talks

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LONDON, Oct. 8 — Britain today welcomed President Nixon's initiative to end the fighting in South Vietnam and gave her support to the reconvening of the Geneva Conference on Indochina.

A statement issued by the foreign Office noted that Mr. Nixon's proposals, made public yesterday, had the "full support of the Governments of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia."

It expressed hope that "the

other side will feel able to respond so that positive progress may at last be made toward a permanent and peaceful settlement of the war."

British officials were briefed in Washington yesterday on the contents of Mr. Nixon's speech, and the possibility of a new conference on Indochina was believed to have been discussed last Saturday during the President's brief visit here with Prime Minister Heath.

Britain and the Soviet Union were co-chairmen at the Geneva

Conference of 1954, which ended the Indochina war and established Laos as an independent state, and the Geneva Conference of 1962, which aimed at ending the civil war in Laos and guaranteeing her neutrality.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Foreign Secretary, said today that the Geneva Conference could be reconvened and international machinery set up to "police the peace" in Southeast Asia if the North Vietnamese were receptive to the Nixon proposals.

He said in a radio interview that the conference would need to be more elaborate than in 1954 or 1962 but that this could be done quite easily.

The British Government has sought in recent years to get another conference under way. However, there was no immediate indication that there will be a new approach to the Soviet Union soon. The Soviet Union has no independent position but has, in recent years, accepted North Vietnam's objections to convening a conference.