

NIXON PEACE PLAN ASSAILED BY REDS AT TALKS IN PARIS

Hanoi and Vietcong Aides
Attack U.S. 'Maneuver' and
Adhere to Demands

'REJECTION' IS AVOIDED

Private Talks Are Viewed as
Essential for Further

Probes by 2 Sides

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PARIS, Oct. 8 — The Communist delegations to the Vietnam peace talks denounced President Nixon's five peace proposals today as "a maneuver to deceive world opinion" and held fast to their demands for unconditional and total American troop withdrawal and the overthrow of the "puppet" leaders in Saigon.

A whole string of epithets was used by Xuan Thuy, the North Vietnamese delegate, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong delegate, and their press spokesmen to denounce Mr. Nixon and his "so-called" peace plan.

But neither of the two delegations would use the word "rejection" to characterize their attitude. They described their remarks as "preliminary" and reserved the right to return to the proposals in future negotiating sessions, although they made it clear it would be to criticize them.

Private Talks Foreseen

It is generally assumed that if the two sides are to probe each other's meanings and intentions, the probing will not come in the regular Thursday negotiating sessions but in private talks. Nguyen Than Le, the North Vietnamese spokesman, said today that such talks had not yet taken place.

If they do, they will probably be held by David K. E. Bruce, the American delegate, and Mr. Thuy, since up to now the United States has refused to talk in private with the Vietcong without a representative of the Saigon Government present and both of the Communist delegations have refused to talk to the Saigon delegate.

The Communist delegates evidently had already determined their response to Mr. Nixon's proposals before they entered the conference room in the former Majestic Hotel on the Avenue Kleber this morning and before Mr. Bruce had had a chance to lay Mr. Nixon's proposals on the table.

Statement Read by Bruce

Mr. Bruce did little more than read what Mr. Nixon said last night, adding the hope that the proposals would receive "the most careful study and considered response by your side."

Mr. Le said his delegation had listened to Mr. Nixon as he spoke and had had eight hours to study what he said.

President Nixon, in a 12-minute speech, proposed a cease-fire covering all Indochina, negotiation for withdrawal of

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American forces, immediate release of all prisoners, an Indochina peace conference and a "fair political solution" in Vietnam.

Even though the first Communist judgment was hostile, the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations made it clear that they would pursue the matter. Their position has some similarity, although expressed in harsher terms, to that adopted by Mr. Bruce three weeks ago when Mrs. Binh presented some clarification of standing Communist peace proposals. The American delegate indicated then that he had not found Mrs. Binh's initiative very new but said he would continue to study it.

On Sept. 17, Mrs. Binh proposed an American withdrawal by next June 30 in return for which, she said, her side was prepared to offer in effect a cease-fire for the withdrawing troops and immediate talks on the prisoner problem.

Joint Administration Proposed

Mrs. Binh also offered political talks with South Vietnamese persons favoring peace, neutrality, independence and democracy, and specifically excluded from such talks only President Nguyen Van Thieu, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Premier Tran Thien Khiem. The talks could lead, she said, to a tripartite administration representing the Vietcong's provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam, the Saigon administration and other persons outside the two groups. This government then conduct elections, she said.

Mr. Le and Duong Dinh Thao, the Vietcong spokesman, complained today that Mr. Nixon had not "seriously answered" Mrs. Binh's proposals. A "serious answer," they have made clear in the past, would have to be one virtually equivalent to acceptance.

The updated Communist peace initiative and the counterinitiative taken by Mr. Nixon have given a new stimu-



Associated Press

ARRIVE TO PRESENT PROPOSALS: David K. E. Bruce, chief American negotiator, with his deputy, Philip C. Habib, outside the Majestic Hotel in Paris yesterday. North Vietnamese spokesmen attacked President's proposals but reserved right to discuss them.

us to the conference after months of dull routine. The press briefing hall was jammed and an expectancy akin to that attending the opening of the four-sided talks in January of last year hung over the gathering.

The negotiating session and the press briefings that followed were full of statements directed to public opinion. Mr. Nixon was accused by the Communists of hypocrisy and his proposals were characterized as "a false peace — a real war." Mr. Le, who often uses Vietnamese expressions, spoke of "a hundred elephants who have not been enough to produce a little cup of bouillon." This seemed to be equivalent to the laboring mountain that brought forth a mouse.

Nixon Accused of Deception

Mr. Thao remarked that Mr. Nixon's "fig leaf" had fallen "and he has now picked it up to mask a maneuver, but the fig leaf is faded." When told that some of Mr. Nixon's critics in the United States had praised last night's speech, the Vietcong spokesman said he hoped public opinion would not long be deceived.

There was considerable interest shown here in the fact that Mr. Nixon did not specifically mention mutual withdrawals of all non-South Vietnamese forces in his speech, and did not speak of free elections in talking of "political processes" in South Vietnam.

But both Communist spokesmen agreed with their adversary, Nguyen Trieu Dan of the Saigon delegation, that the United States and Saigon were still demanding that North Vietnam withdraw its forces as the United States withdraws.

Such a demand was characterized by the Communists as "absurd" since, they said, it put the American "aggressors" on the same level as the Vietnamese who, they said, were defending themselves against aggression.

Mr. Dan said his Government was still holding to free elections as the correct solution. Under the Saigon proposal, such elections would be held by an electoral commission in which the Communists would participate but within the framework and under the authority of the present Saigon regime.