

Hanoi Shifts Deadline on U.S. Pullout

Examiner News Services

PARIS — A spokesman for a group of American pacifists quoted the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks today as saying Hanoi would accept a total American withdrawal from Vietnam by the end of the year rather than their previously stated target date of mid-1971.

Illinois State Rep. Leland Rayson of Tinley Park, Ill., said the North Vietnamese position emerged during a two-hour meeting between the Hanoi envoys and Viet Cong representatives here and most of the 170 members of the American pacifist group.

The North Vietnamese have insisted publicly that the Americans pull out all of their troops from Indochina by the middle of this year.

But Rayson said the spokesmen agreed that the McGovern-Hatfield bill in the U.S. Senate could be "a helpful consideration" if approved. The bill, sponsored by Senators George McGovern (D-S.D.) and Mark Hat-

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field (R-Ore.), includes the Dec. 31 deadline.

"After a good deal of talking they (the North Vietnamese) indicated that legislation introduced into the U.S. Congress calling for American withdrawal by the end of the year was a reasonable timetable," Rayson said.

"The North Vietnamese indicated that if President Nixon agreed to a timetable this would immediately help negotiations," he said. "They told us that as soon as the Administration agreed to a fixed timetable then other questions immediately would be tabled (introduced for discussions)."

At a closed door meeting, the Americans asked questions arising out of a similar session they had with American officials last night.

Political Questions

Allan Brick, another spokesman for the group said they asked questions particularly concerning the kind of political solution envisaged by the Communist side, the relationship between the announcement of an American withdrawal and a cease-fire, and the question of American prisoners held by Hanoi and the Viet Cong.

Communist representatives stressed that a cease-fire would be proclaimed immediately after the United States announces a withdrawal date, but they said a cease-fire would apply to South Vietnamese forces only if President Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky have meanwhile been eliminated from the Saigon government.

Want Thieu, Ky Out

Brick said the exclusion of Thieu and Ky remains an essential condition for any political settlement with Hanoi and the Viet Cong but that they remained prepared to negotiate directly with virtually any Saigon government that did not include Thieu and Ky.

North Vietnam has consistently refused to negotiate with Thieu's Saigon delegation at the 2 year old Paris peace talks.

Brick said the peace group — organized by the American Friends Service Committee, the Fellowship for Reconciliation and the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam — "felt particularly frustrated" after their discussions yesterday with U.S. delegate David K. E. Bruce and other American officials.

"For most of them it was a tremendous anti-climax," he said.

"They found that any kind of personal moral contract with these officials was completely impossible. They came here as American citizens to appeal to the representatives of their government for some kind of response and understanding of their deep concern about the war.

"In this sense the outcome of the sessions was entirely negative."