

# White House Sees Good, Bad in Offer

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SFE

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The White House said today a new Viet Cong peace plan contains "positive as well as clearly unacceptable elements."

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler, giving this reaction to the package plan to couple the release of prisoners with withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Vietnam, would not elaborate on which elements were positive and which unacceptable.

However, the White House spokesman emphasized that the Nixon Administration would "accept no arrangement that would turn the 17 million people of South Vietnam over to the Communists."

## Coalition

This appeared to be a veiled reference to one Viet Cong recommendation for the establishment of a coalition government in the south.

Ziegler said the negotiating posture of the United States would be made known at the Paris talks next week.

For the moment, he said, the seven-point plan put forward by the Viet Cong remains under study. He said President Nixon conferred on the subject during the morning with Henry Kissinger, his assistant for national security affairs.

In the past, the United

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# U.S. Has Mixed Reaction to Plan

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States has taken the position that a total U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam by Dec. 31 — the goal suggested by the Viet Cong — would be precipitous.

Earlier, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said the new Viet Cong proposals "very likely fit in with the probes being made by the President over the past several months."

"I think full credit should be given to the President for the initiatives he has undertaken," Mansfield told newsmen.

Sen. Hugh Scott, the Republican leader, called the new proposal "most encouraging and heartening news." He said Nixon's position has paid off and "now we can start negotiating seriously."

## Stability

Authorities were expected to examine not only the terms of the proposal for their immediate application to getting American fighting men, including prisoners, out of Vietnam but also for their effect on the political stability of South Vietnam, now under the pressures of a presidential campaign year.

At first reading the seven-point peace plan advanced at the Paris peace talks by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Viet Cong foreign minister, appeared to be designed to meet a key condition laid down by President Nixon.

Nixon has said that a withdrawal plan tied to a definite target date would have to cover the actual release of American prisoners held by the Viet Cong and not just an agreement to discuss their release.

At the same time, however, the President also has asserted another condition over which the Viet Cong have no direct control: That before the U.S. gets out of South Vietnam it must be assured the South Vietnamese have the resources to defend themselves.