

Reds Offer to Free POWs  
if We Leave in '71

# We Leave in '71

SF Examiner

JUL 1 1971

PARIS—(AP)—Vietnamese Communist leaders offered today to release prisoners taken in the Vietnam war if the United States agrees to withdraw its forces by the end of the year.

The plan calls for the gradual release of prisoners simultaneously with the U.S. withdrawal.



MRS. NGUYEN BINH

Offers new peace bid

—AP Photo

For fuller account  
see POW file;  
includes text of  
7-point proposal.

Emerging from a session of the Paris peace talks, Xuan Thuy, chief of the North Vietnamese delegation, said U.S. Ambassador David Bruce agreed to give the peace plan "very careful study."

### Cong Delegate

The plan, which included seven points, was laid before the negotiators by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, chief Viet Cong delegate. Thuy supported it.

Bruce proposed adjournment of the meeting after 3¼ hours, to have time to study Mrs. Binh's proposals.

In Saigon, a U.S. source predicted the Viet Cong plan will "put a lot of pressure on the Nixon Administration and the American people" to fix a withdrawal deadline. He doubted, however, that the United States could withdraw all its forces by Dec. 31.

The Viet Cong proposal also makes demands previously rejected by the United States, including ouster of the Saigon regime and establishment of a coalition government.

### Conditions

One noticeable feature of speeches by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese was their generally moderate tone and the absence of personal attacks on President Nixon.

Basic conditions for ending the war were unchanged from previous Communist proposals submitted

Binh, Viet Cong foreign minister.

### Commitment

The new aspect of her proposal was a flat commitment to match American withdrawal with release of the prisoners, and a timetable for the release procedure geared to the withdrawal.

Previously, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong said they would negotiate the release of the prisoners after the United States set a date for its final withdrawal.

The Communists also agreed there should be international guarantees insuring compliance with the provisions of the peace treaty, presumably to meet allied objections that a military pullout would leave the South Vietnamese population at the mercy of the Communists.

Most of Mrs. Binh's seven points were Communist proposals repeatedly rejected by the United States and the South Vietnamese government. They included the removal of President Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, and a permanent ban on American military aid to South Vietnam.

### Removal

Mrs. Binh said her ceasefire offer could not apply to the Saigon government's

"by various means" a new Saigon government prepared to form a coalition government with the Viet Cong and Vietnamese neutralists, she added.

Her other proposals included:

- The coalition government would take measures to prevent terrorism and acts of reprisal against "collaborators with one side or another during the war." It would organize "truly free and democratic general elections in South Vietnam."

- Pending "peaceful reunification" of North and South Vietnam by free agreement between the two zones, the zones would establish normal relations and permit free movement of their citizens across the 17th Parallel.

- Both North and South Vietnam would remain neutral and refrain from any military alliance with foreign countries, foreign military bases, or foreign troops.

- "On the basis of this principle, South Vietnam and the United States will establish political, economic and cultural relations."

- The U.S. government "must accept full responsibility for losses and destruction it has caused to the Vietnamese people in the two zones."