

# Hartke Says Nixon Should Set a Date

Paris

Senator Vance Hartke (Dem-Ind.), yesterday said fighting between American and Communist forces in Vietnam could end within days if President Nixon would set a date for the withdrawal of all American forces by the end of the year.

Hartke, addressing a news conference after meetings with the four delegations at the Paris peace talks, said, "I have been assured by the leaders of both the North Vietnamese and the national liberation front delegations here that they will accept an immediate cease-fire between their forces and ours as soon as an acceptable date is set for the orderly withdrawal of America's fighting men from Vietnam."

"The killing can end within a matter of days . . . they (the communist side) have assured me that they will sit down with us at once to work out mutually satisfactory arrangements for both the safe withdrawal of our troops and the early return of all our prisoners of war," Hartke said.

"President Nixon has an unparalleled opportunity to live up to his own 1968 campaign promises . . . the initiative lives with him. It is a

small one to take for so magnificent a prize," he said.

Although he admitted that such an arrangement would not provide for a halt to fighting between North and South Vietnam, Hartke said "the conscience and heart of America are suffering immeasurably" and wish an end to American involvement in Vietnam.

Reuters