

SFChronicle

FEB 3 1972

Senate Blamed**Kissinger Views
Peace Talk Halt****Washington**

Henry A. Kissinger has expressed the view that the Senate defeat of the Foreign Aid Bill last October 29 was among a number of factors that led to the suspension of the secret negotiations between the United States and North Vietnam in November.

Kissinger, President Nixon's national security affairs adviser, privately told relatives of American prisoners of war last Friday that the unexpected Senate defeat of the aid measure might have led the North Vietnamese to believe that United States economic support for the Saigon government would be ended shortly without any concession by Hanoi in the negotiations.

Three weeks after the Senate vote, the North Vietnamese suddenly reversed themselves and declined to send a member of the Politburo to a meeting scheduled for November 20.

In other conversations recently Kissinger said that many factors may have influenced the North Vietnamese decision, including these:

- The Negative international reaction to the one-man South Vietnamese election on October 3. North Vietnam may have believed that the spectacle of an uncontested election might re-ignite antiwar sentiment in the United States and erode support for Mr. Nixon's continued backing of President Thieu.

- The pace of the withdrawal of United States troops. The withdrawals announced during the period may have persuaded the North Vietnamese that the American involvement was headed toward an early con-

clusion regardless of the progress of the Paris talks.

Implicit in this theory is the suggestion that a bipartisan Senate coalition might inadvertently have created obstacles to the secret peace talks.

Perhaps to avoid that implication, Kissinger has declined to speculate in public on the North Vietnamese motive in announcing that Le Duc Tho, a senior Politburo member, was unable to attend the November 20 session because of illness. The United States responded that the meeting could serve no useful purpose without him.

Hanoi did offer to send Xuan Thuy, the head of its Paris negotiating team, but the United States declined. As a result each side has accused the other of breaking off and thereby deadlocking the talks.

N.Y. Times Service