

# A New Version of Red Peace Plan

## Easier Terms for Saigon

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The Vietnamese Communists yesterday presented a new formulation of their peace plan, which appeared more conciliatory to the present Saigon administration.

At the same time, they called American peace proposals "unacceptable," leading some observers to conclude that the Communists had formally rejected the Nixon peace plan.

The Viet Cong with North Vietnamese support, called for the immediate resignation of President Nguyen Van Thieu and said it would then enter into negotiation with the Saigon administration if it changed its policy of waging war and repression.

The basic demands for total and unconditional American withdrawal and for a change in the Saigon regime were maintained. But it was left to President Nixon to propose a date for withdrawal and only Thieu was singled out for exclusion from a political role in South Vietnam. The United States was not directly asked to oust him as in the past.

### PROPOSALS

The South Vietnamese delegation flatly rejected the Communist proposals while the Americans appeared more cautious. In the session, William J. Porter threw several questions at the Communists but received no direct replies.

Stephen Ledogar, the press spokesman, told newsmen that some studying would go on. He said he saw a hardening in the military proposals but on the political side "we will have to study it." He also said that he was interested in Communist motives that might hold out a possibility for negotiations.

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"If the other side is interested in exchanging information, there is room for progress," Ledogar said. "If the other side is interested in some face lifting of their public position, then there is not much hope."

### GROUND

The belief here is that, at the least, the Communists are on a propaganda counter-offensive to regain whatever ground they may have lost by President Nixon's disclosures last week of secret and sustained efforts by his foreign policy adviser, Henry Kissinger, to find common ground for an agreement.

Last Monday, North Vietnam released several hitherto secret documents on the talks and showed concern for their standing with public opinion.

(In Washington, one official said that "at first glance there does seem to be some elements of interest in it.")

(The Communists might have opened the possibility of separating military and political issues for the first time, William H. Sullivan, the official said. But Sullivan, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, added that the plan "is not at all clear.")

(In some ways, he said, the plan "looks like an old ball of wax," but the administration "certainly will explore it in great detail.")

The eight-point American peace proposal, first discussed secretly with the North Vietnamese, then made public last week, calls for American withdrawal six months after an overall peace agreement. It also calls for elections under a commission in which the Communists would participate. Moreover, Thieu would resign one month before the election.

### TALKS

Xuan Thuy, the chief Hanoi delegate who participated in some of the secret talks with Kissinger, declared at the conference table that the proposals were "a plan to pursue a policy of Vietnamization of the war" and to prolong the war itself.

"Such a plan is, of course, unacceptable for all persons of conscience devoted to independence, freedom and peace," Thuy declared.

Nguyen Van Tien, the chief

Viet Cong delegate, said the provisional revolutionary government was "specifying the two key problems in its seven-point solution."

First, the "United States government must advance a precise date for the complete withdrawal from South Vietnam of all troops, military advisers and personnel, arms, war equipment of the United States and of other foreign countries in the American camp without putting any condition whatever. This deadline shall also be that of the liberation of all military personnel of all parties and of civilians captured in the war (including the American pilots captured in North Vietnam)."

### LIBERATION

The Americans saw a hardening of the Communist military position because it made no mention of a cease-fire as the Viet Cong's standing seven-point proposal does or the nine-point North Vietnamese plan, put to the United States secretly last June. Yesterday's formulation also did not specify parallel liberation of prisoners as troops were withdrawn as previous proposals have.

The point on a political solution, differed markedly in language from previous plans. The Viet Cong's new seven-point plan calls on the United States to cease support for "the bellicose group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu," and said the various religious, political and social forces would form "a new administration favoring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy." The Viet Cong would negotiate with this new administration for the formation of a tripartite coalition that would also include other political elements.