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Secret Bid By Nixon on Paris Talks

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PARIS — The chief of the U.S. delegation to the Vietnam peace talks revealed today that President Nixon made a secret proposal to the Vietnamese Communists to resume the discussions.

"The only response came in the form of a mushrooming invasion of the Republic of South Vietnam by North Vietnamese troops," Ambassador William Porter told an airport news conference as he returned from consultations in the United States.

Nixon made his secret

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proposal "through a private channel" on April 1, Porter said, and the Communist side received it the next day.

The proposal thus was made two days after the first effect of the big North Vietnamese offensive below the Demilitarized Zone was felt.

The South Vietnamese on March 30 were driven from the first of the string of border bases they lost.

But a Viet Cong spokesman said today "There has never been any such message for us. Only yesterday the American side rejected our latest appeal to resume the talks."

The spokesman for Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the Viet Cong foreign Minister, told United Press International, "The first time we heard about such a secret message was from wire services. We know of no such message."

U.S. delegation spokesman Stephen Ledogar dismissed the Viet Cong claim. He indicated the U.S. administration had sent the message to

North Vietnam, which failed to inform the Viet Cong.

"It simply shows their friends are not keeping the Viet Cong informed," Ledogar said. He said he could not disclose further details.

Porter gave no clue to the identity of the private channel and did not explain why Nixon made his proposal in that fashion and secretly.

The ambassador said he thought it "useful" to make a statement "to clear away the rubbish which has accumulated around the Paris peace talks."

It seemed likely that his statement was in reply to a French government statement yesterday urging that the peace talks be resumed promptly, a statement that the State Department said was "one-sided . . . because it picks up demands of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegation."

Porter recalled that on Jan. 25 Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu presented an eight-point proposal "which certainly constituted a reasonable basis for discussion and negotiation."