

Rogers Says U.S. Will Counter Hanoi

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By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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LONDON, May 4 — Secretary of State William P. Rogers vowed today that the United States would not allow North Vietnam to conquer South Vietnam.

Speaking to newsmen here a few hours after the allied side announced an indefinite suspension in the Paris talks on Vietnam, Mr. Rogers said that "strong military action" would have to be taken to counter Hanoi's offensive in the South.

Noting that he had just been in contract with the White House, Mr. Rogers said that "President Nixon will take whatever military action necessary to prevent a military takeover by force" in South Vietnam.

He then qualified his statement, as Administration officials have done in the past, by ruling out the use of nuclear weapons or the reintroduction of American ground forces.

The tone and substance of his comments were consistent with what he and other senior officials traveling with him have told the handful of newsmen aboard the Air Force jet in recent days.

Nixon Remarks Referred To

He and these officials have consistently referred questions about Vietnam to Mr. Nixon's remarks in Texas Sunday night, when the President said that North Vietnam was running "a serious risk" by continuing its offensive.

The President's remarks were in response to questions by other guests at the ranch of John B. Connally, Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Nixon in private has given Mr. Rogers and other senior Administration officials the strong impression that he would rather lose the election than not provide enough military force to keep South Vietnam viable.

Mr. Rogers, who arrived in London last night as part of his eight-day visit to eight Western European countries, departed for Brussels tonight on the third leg of the mission. His assignment

is to brief Western leaders on Mr. Nixon's plans for his Moscow visit later this month.

But the Vietnam situation played an important role in today's sessions with British leaders, Mr. Rogers said.

Mr. Rogers not only conferred with the White House by phone, but with William J. Porter, the chief United States negotiator in Paris, who reported to him in

detail on today's developments there.

Arrival in Brussels

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BRUSSELS, May 4—Secretary Rogers arrived here tonight for talks tomorrow with Belgian officials and representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Common Market.