

White House Reviews Nixon

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — A few hours after official acknowledgment of a delay in reaching a Vietnam cease-fire, the White House released a review which reported the U.S. role in peace negotiations nearly completed.

A White House spokesman explained the apparent discrepancy between the review and the current situation by saying the review was intended as an over-all look at President Nixon's first four years, in both foreign and domestic affairs.

He said that it was not intended as an updated report on the peace talks but rather as an over-all assessment of the U.S. role in these negotiations which he said were only a few details short of a successful conclusion.

Kissinger Optimistic

Shortly after this explanation was offered when the review was made available to newsmen, Henry Kissinger in a White House news conference said basically the same thing about the negotiations, even while acknowledging that there has

been a delay, which he blamed on Hanoi.

The President's No. 1 foreign-affairs adviser and chief peace negotiator insisted he remains optimistic even while reporting the holdup in final signing and the need for further talks. He seemed to be discouraging any interpretation that a solid impasse exists.

Still, the language of the review was the most upbeat assessment from top levels since Kissinger on Oct. 26 reported "peace is at hand."

'Cold War Diminished'

The review says:

"The cold war diminished, if not ended by the President's successful summit trips and the many agreements which flowed from these historic missions; U.S. role in Vietnam peace settlement virtually completed."

The review was prepared by the White House staff to cover all aspects of the Nixon Administration to date and is represented as a record of nearly unblemished accomplishments.

According to John Ehrlichman, the President's special assistant for domestic affairs, there weren't "any important failures" in the administration's first four years.

'Shortfalls'

He acknowledges some "shortfalls" in the goals set for such domestic areas as welfare reform, federal revenue sharing and tax reform.

But the blame, Ehrlichman indicates, was on Congress and not due to any administration mistakes or lack of effort.

Ehrlichman says a major disappointment was the failure to obtain a special revenue-sharing bill. This "embodied a major change in the government's direction and . . . called into question the validity of the assumption" that the federal government should solve problems better left to the states.

Only a great debate on revenue sharing, Ehrlichman says, will lead to "a

better application of federal funds."

'Generation of Peace'

In the 4½ pages of the 43 pages of the report devoted to foreign policy, the writers say Nixon had transformed the face of international affairs from a "clouded and dark" time to "the beginning of a generation of peace."

The report points to the Nixon trips to China and the Soviet Union, negotiations with Russia on arms limitations, the beginning of talks on East-West troop reduction in Central Europe, the continuing Mideast cease-fire, a more mature relationship with Japan and the increasing participation by allies in defense systems.

"On Vietnam, neither the report nor Herbert Klein, director of communications for the White House who briefed newsmen, gave details supporting the "virtually completed" assessment of the Vietnam negotiations.

Essential Points

But the review does list three familiar points as essential to any settlement: a cease-fire, return of all American prisoners of war "and an opportunity for the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future without having either a Communist government or a coalition government imposed upon them."

Because of the President's stand on ending the war, the report says, "the people of Vietnam may now anticipate an internationally supervised cease-fire and the reconstruction of their country."

In other areas, the report gives Nixon credit for spending the lowest percentage of the Gross National Product for defense purposes since the Korean War.

The claim is made that Nixon's "new economic policy has brought us—for the first time since the Eisenhower years — to the brink of a new prosperity, one which is not accompanied by

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inflation and not dependent on war."

There is only passing reference made to the continuation of unemployment at above 5 percent and no direct mention of the large budget deficits. But, says Ehrlichman, the problems of space in putting out a review forced some cuts in

discussing the administration record.

Those items left in include also boasting about the beginning of revenue sharing, government reorganization, the attempt at welfare reform, anti-crime measures and environmental protection.

In addition, the report

says, "health, nutrition, transportation, education, housing and consumer protection were among the programs which benefitted not merely from more spending but from better thinking as well."

In desegregation, the report says less than 8 percent of black children in the

South now attend all-black schools, which the figure was 68 percent in 1969. Nationally, the figures were 40 percent four years ago and less than 12 percent now, it says.

Government spending for civil rights activities' the review reports, rose from \$911 million in 1969 to \$2.6 billion in the current fiscal year.