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WAR HEARING SET BY SENATE PANEL

Vietnam Critics Will Start
Testimony on Tuesday

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WASHINGTON, April 14 — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee announced today that it would begin next Tuesday its long-scheduled hearings on how to end the war in Vietnam.

The public hearings will provide a new forum for the Vietnam critics in Congress. The Administration has displayed an apparent lack of interest in participating.

The committee had planned to turn over the opening round of the hearings to Administration witnesses, but thus far, according to committee aides, no Administration official has agreed to testify.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers, according to committee aides, has yet to reply to an invitation to testify that was sent 10 days ago. Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird declined an invitation on the ground that he had to go into the hospital for an operation.

Doves to Lead Off

So instead, the committee will start the hearings with testimony from the Senate sponsors of various legislative proposals to end or limit American military involvement in Vietnam.

Among the Senators who will be asked to testify are George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, co-sponsors of the proposed "Vietnam disengagement act," which would require withdrawal of all forces by the end of 1971; Vance Hartke, Democrat of Indiana, sponsor of a resolution calling for immediate troop withdrawal; Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, and William B. Saxbe, Republican of Ohio, co-sponsors of a resolution prohibiting any American support for a South Vietnamese invasion of North Vietnam, and Jack Miller, Republican of Iowa, sponsor of a resolution calling for withdrawal of troops within one year after the release of prisoners of war.

In later phases of the hearings, the committee expects to hear former Administration officials and academic authorities on Vietnam.

The foreign Relations Committee decided on the hearings as its first order of business in January. But then it twice postponed them, first because of the incursion into Laos and then to await President Nixon's Vietnam speech last week.