

Senate, 47-43, Adds Cease-Fire To Amendment to Halt the War

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WASHINGTON, May 16—The Senate accepted today, by a vote of 47 to 43, an Administration proposal that withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam be conditioned upon an internationally supervised cease-fire.

The close vote was a victory for the Administration in its efforts to block or at least weaken end-the-war legislation in the Senate. The Senate anti-war group, however, immediately opened a new legislative attack on the Administration's Indochina policy.

Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, offered a substitute proposal that would require the unconditional withdrawal of all American combat and support forces from Vietnam by Aug. 31 and make a cessation of all American hostilities in Indochina dependent only upon a cease-fire and release of American prisoners.

Nixon Trip a Major Factor

A vote on the Mansfield proposal is likely to be put off until late this month after President Nixon returns from his trip to the Soviet Union.

The scheduled Moscow meeting proved to be an important factor in influencing the outcome of today's vote on whether to modify an amendment sponsored by Senators Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

The Case-Church amendment, to a State Department budget bill, would provide for a cut-off of all funds for American hostilities in Indochina four months after agreement was reached with North Vietnam on release of American prisoners. The vote today came on a proposal by the Democratic whip, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, supported by the Administration, to make the cut-off also conditional upon agreement on an internationally supervised cease-fire.

The argument of Senator Byrd and Administration supporters was that the modification would bring the amendment more in line with Presi-

dent Nixon's proposal last week to withdraw all American forces from Vietnam four months after an internationally supervised cease-fire in Indochina and the release of American prisoners of war.

On the other side, Senator Church protested that the effect of the Byrd modification would be to "emasculate" the amendment, since it was unlikely that either North Vietnam or South Vietnam would agree to a cease-fire.

At one point the Byrd proposal appeared to be close to death. But then the balance

shifted when Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, a leading Republican opponent of the war, announced on the floor that he would vote for the Byrd modification in the President's interest, because "I do not want to do anything to limit his ability to negotiate."

Senator Cooper's prestige was enough to bring over a few wavering Senators in a vote that split largely along party lines. Thirty-three Republicans and 14 Democrats voted for the cease-fire provision; 10 Republicans and 33 Democrats were opposed.

Antiwar Bloc Encouraged

While losing the first test of strength against the Administration, some war foes were convinced that the vote was close enough to provide a momentum that could lead to eventual Senate adoption of the Mansfield proposal. As an end-the-war amendment, the Mansfield proposal is in some ways stronger than the Case-Church amendment, or which it was offered as a substitute.

The Mansfield proposal would require that all American forces in South Vietnam be withdrawn unconditionally by Aug. 31. In addition, it would require that all American hostilities, such as air and naval activities, be terminated after an agreement on "a verified cease-fire" between the United States and the National Liberation Front, the Vietcong, and its allies and after release of all American prisoners.