

Congress Leaders Cheer President

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Congressional leaders, including some prominent opponents of the war in Indochina, gave President Nixon a standing ovation yesterday after a lengthy White House briefing on the negotiated truce in South Vietnam.

But several members of Congress expressed concern that the peace might prove to be shortlived. One, Senator Frank Church (Dem - Idaho), said he will introduce legislation tomorrow to bar "re-entry" of American combat forces, including air power, if the truce should be broken.

The dominant reaction on Capitol Hill as senators and representatives learned of the details of the agreement appeared to be one of gratitude at U.S. disengagement but no more than frail hope that the war itself is over.

OBSTACLES

According to several accounts of the private two-hour and 20-minute meeting between Mr. Nixon and the congressional leaders,

the President also alluded to the obstacles to permanent peace.

Hugh Scott, Senate Republican leader, quoted the President as having stated that the settlement represents "a peace, however fragile, which we have hopes will endure."

Scott said the President urged those who had disagreed with his conduct of the war and of the negotiations to understand that, while problems remain in carrying out the settlement, "it

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would be extremely helpful, while being honest, not to consult our fears but our belief that this is peace with honor."

'PROUD'

Scott also quoted Mr. Nixon as having said:

"Thank God for those who stood, thank God for those who gave their lives. Thank God for those who suffered and for them all. We're damn proud of them."

The White House briefing was conducted by Henry A. Kissinger, the assistant to the President for national security matters. Both Mr. Nixon and Kissinger answered questions from the members of Congress and the President directed Kis-

singer to brief the full Senate and House at the capitol tomorrow.

At the White House meeting Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.), one of the most constant critics of the President's Vietnam policies, congratulated Mr. Nixon for having obtained a settlement.

DIFFICULTIES

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said later, however, that it is "inevitable that many difficulties will arise out of the liquidation of this long, costly and bitter struggle."

Similar skepticism was apparent in the comments of Mike Mansfield, Senate Democratic leader. Asked by newsmen if he thought the agreement would last, Mansfield replied, "Oh, for the time being."

He said that he could "imagine some time in the future there would be difficulties" between North and South Vietnam.

Senator Gale McGee (Dem-Wyo.), who has supported Mr. Nixon's war policies, warned of "exceedingly difficult days ahead." He noted that the Korean war had been concluded by a truce, rather than a peace agreement, and called the Vietnam settlement "an important beginning."

Several of the 58 Senate sponsors of a war powers bill joined Mansfield in voicing hope that the armistice would broaden support for the measure, which would restrict the authority of Presidents to engage in undeclared wars.

Mansfield said that it would be clear now that the measure was not directly connected to the Vietnam war.