

## Aiken Expects Nixon to Promise Full '72 Pullout in Talk Tonight

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WASHINGTON, April 6—als have been at a rate that Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont predicted today that President Nixon would announce in his televised speech tomorrow a schedule that would lead to the removal of all American forces from Vietnam by some time next year.

Senator Aiken, who as the ranking Republican of the Foreign Relations Committee has close ties with the Administration, noted that in the last two weeks, without any publicity, the President has speeded up troop withdrawals by almost 50 per cent.

For the last two weeks, Senator Aiken observed, withdraw-

A 9 P.M. tomorrow night Mr. Nixon will deliver a major policy speech on the Vietnam war in which he has promised to announce future troop withdrawal schedules. His address will be carried by the major television networks.

While it appeared from Sen-

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Congressional critics of the Vietnam war in general expect the President to announce tomorrow an accelerated troop withdrawal schedule. But in the Vietnam debate, which is in a temporary lull pending the President's speech, the paramount question of the critics is whether Mr. Nixon will commit himself to total withdrawal or hold open the possibility of a residual force of United States air and support troops in Vietnam.

The lines for this new round in the debate have been drawn in recent weeks as Democrats in both the House and Senate

in both the House and Senate have adopted policy statements calling for withdrawal of all American forces as well as the release of prisoners of war by the end of 1972.

President Nixon in turn has emphasized that he has no intention of withdrawing all the American troops until all the prisoners of war have been released by the enemy.

With the support of some Republican Senators, Administration officials began developing the argument today that Democratic proposals for a fixed deadline for troop withdrawals would endanger the release of American prisoners of war.

Testifying before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee, G. Warren Nutter, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, said that linking the prisoner issue to such political considerations as troop withdrawals would have the effect of making the prisoners hostages in the negotiations and would endanger the course of future withdrawals by the United States.

William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, in seconding this theme, said that the North Vietnamese were attempting "to use our prisoners to bargain for political and military concessions, in effect to try to use these men to achieve the same goals they have sought unsuccessfully to gain by military means."

In the Senate yesterday, Senator Jack Miller, an Iowa Republican, provoked the Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, by contending that the Democratic proposals for withdrawal deadlines would "put the fate of the American prisoners of war at the unilateral, dictatorial determination of the leaders of Hanoi." Senator Miller made the comments in offering a resolution calling for total troop withdrawals within one year after all prisoners of war had been released.

Senator Mansfield protested that Senator Miller and his Republican colleagues were misinterpreting the Democratic resolutions, which he noted called for the release of all prisoners as well as total troop withdrawals by the end of 1972.