

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1971

Nixon Bids Hanoi Back a Swedish P.O.W. Plan

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Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., May 3—President Nixon called on North Vietnam today to take advantage of an offer by Sweden to intern prisoners of war for the duration of the Vietnamese conflict.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, announced that the President had "noted with great satisfaction" press reports from Stockholm that the Swedish Government would be willing to transport the American and North Vietnamese prisoners to Swedish territory and provide for their internment.

But Mr. Ziegler also noted that the Swedish Government had said such an arrangement

would depend upon an agreement between the United States and North Vietnam.

"The burden falls squarely on the shoulders of the Hanoi Government" to respond now to American and South Vietnamese initiatives on the prisoner issue, Mr. Ziegler said.

French Press Report

The White House had no explanation why it took three days for the President to comment on the Swedish offer or why he was relying on a report by Agence France-Presse of the offer in a dispatch from Stockholm rather than on diplomatic channels.

Mr. Ziegler read a statement to reporters here shortly before the President departed for Washington after a three-day

weekend in California. Mr. Ziegler said:

"President Nixon today noted with great satisfaction that according to press reports the Government of Sweden has offered the use of its vessels and its territory to provide internment of prisoners of war from the conflict in Vietnam. The President would hope that Hanoi will move promptly to negotiate an agreement on this issue to take advantage of this humanitarian offer on the part of the Swedish Government."

Mr. Ziegler said in response to questions that the "basic point" involved in the President's comment was that it is up to Hanoi to come to terms on the prisoner issue.