

# PORTER EXPECTED TO REPLACE BRUCE AT TALKS IN PARIS

Now Envoy to South Korea,  
He Will Head Team at  
Parley Within Month

JUL 14 1971

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 13—The Nixon Administration plans to replace David K. E. Bruce as chief United States delegate at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris on, or about Aug. 15, senior officials said today.

He is to be succeeded, they said, by William J. Porter, now United States Ambassador to South Korea.

The officials said the decision to accept Ambassador Bruce's resignation, on grounds of ill health, was made several weeks ago by the White House. Mr. Bruce had asked to be relieved effective July 1, they said, but had agreed to remain in Paris for six more weeks.

## Seven-Point Proposal

According to the officials, the presentation of the seven-point Vietcong peace plan at the Paris talks on July 1 strengthened the Nixon Administration's desire to have an "orderly" changeover at a time when active negotiating might develop.

But the senior officials strongly denied suggestions made in diplomatic circles that the decision to change chief delegates had been a sudden one to delay "meaningful" negotiations past the South Vietnamese presidential elections on Oct. 3.

The Vietcong plan envisioned the release of all American prisoners in Vietnam by the end of this year if all American troops were withdrawn by then. The plan also called for the removal of the Saigon Government of Nguyen Van Thieu—a candidate for re-election on Oct. 3—but did not tie together the political and troop-withdrawal issues.

In preparation for the change at the peace talks, Philip C. Habib, who served last year as the deputy United States delegate at the talks, flew to Paris from Washington last night.

Mr. Habib is scheduled to replace Mr. Porter as Ambassador to South Korea.

## Nixon Heads Review

Official spokesmen here and in San Clemente, Calif., where a major foreign policy review began today under Mr. Nixon's chairmanship, refused to say that a decision has been made on the change of command at the Paris delegation.

But White House and State Department officials indicated that there have been discussions concerning the 73-year-old Mr. Bruce's desire to return to retirement. The career diplomat ended his retirement to go to Paris.

The spokesmen here and in California confined themselves to statements that Mr. Bruce

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would attend the next session of the peace talks on Thursday.

This will be the second meeting since Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Vietcong negotiator, presented the seven-point plan. Last Thursday, Mr. Bruce proposed a "restricted session" for this week so that the United States could seek to clarify the meaning of many aspects of the Vietcong proposals.

## Hopeful on Talks

The Vietcong and North Vietnamese delegations appeared to reject Mr. Bruce's suggestion, but officials here said today that there were reasons to believe that private talks in some format remain possible.

Additional instructions for Mr. Bruce this week were expected to emerge from the foreign policy review at the Western White House.

Centering at this point on the Vietnam peace talks, the review was reported to be based to a large extent on a report by Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, who arrived in San Clemente today after an 11-day world tour.

Mr. Kissinger conferred with South Vietnamese leaders in Saigon last week and with Mr. Bruce and the American delegation in Paris yesterday. As far as is known here, he has not met with any Communist diplomats.

Shortly after his arrival in San Clemente, Mr. Kissinger went into a meeting with President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

## Secret Talks Possible

Officials here expressed doubt that the discussions in San Clemente would result in the formulation of a basic United States attitude toward the Vietcong proposals.

The inclination in the Administration still was to regard the Vietcong plan at best as the

start of what may develop into a lengthy and complex negotiating process, possibly moving into a phase of secret talks.

The Administration, senior officials said, would welcome a direct statement from the Communist side that the release of American prisoners would not be related to a political settlement in South Vietnam.

This separation of issues was set forth by a North Vietnamese Politburo member, Le Duc Tho, in an interview with The New York Times in Paris last week. But, the officials said, the Administration wants to hear it directly "at the negotiating table."

Another issue requiring clarification, officials said, is the Communist attitude concerning continued United States military assistance to South Vietnam after the withdrawal of American troops.

## Praise for Porter

State Department officials praised Mr. Porter today as one of the most accomplished ca-

reer chiefs of missions now serving abroad. The officials recalled that he had served as Deputy Ambassador in Saigon under Henry Cabot Lodge in 1965 and 1966.

In Seoul, Mr. Porter had no comment on the reports of his transfer to Paris.

At San Clemente, Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said that "the President has great confidence in Ambassador Bruce." He added that Mr. Nixon felt Ambassador Bruce "had performed his job very well in Paris and knows he will continue to do so."

The policy review in San Clemente is believed to cover all outstanding problems in foreign relations even though the question of the Paris strategy has moved to the forefront.

Thus, it was said, Mr. Nixon must soon decide how the United States will act when the question of seating Communist China in the United Nations comes up at the General Assembly in the fall.

The deteriorating diplomati



Associated Press

**NEGOTIATORS TO CHANGE:** David K. E. Bruce, left, will be replaced by William J. Porter at the Paris peace talks.

situation in the Middle East—where United States efforts to bring about an interim agreement between Israel and the United Arab Republic for the reopening of the Suez Canal

appear to be stalled—is another matter under review. So are the mounting tensions between India and Pakistan. Mr. Kissinger visited both countries during his trip.