

JUL 15 1971

Package Reply to Vietcong Not Planned, Ziegler Says

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Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 14—The Western White House sought today to discourage speculation that President Nixon was preparing a "package response" to the Vietnamese Communists' seven-point peace proposal of July 1.

Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's press secretary, said in response to questions that the Administration was taking a "different approach" to the proposal, one of "probing to determine if we can move toward meaningful negotiations."

At the same time, Mr. Ziegler also confirmed that Ambassador David K. E. Bruce would leave as the chief United States negotiator at the Paris peace talks in August and would be replaced by William J. Porter, the ambassador to South Korea.

Departure Delayed

Mr. Bruce, 73 years old, is suffering from a circulatory ailment, Mr. Ziegler said, and when he visited the President last May he asked to be relieved. July 1 was agreed to as a departure date, but Mr. Ziegler said today that his tenure had been extended "six or eight weeks" to allow a smooth transition at a critical time.

Mr. Ziegler said that the change was expected to have "no effect" on the negotiations and he stressed that Ambassador Bruce was leaving for personal reasons and nothing more.

"He will be in full charge until he leaves his post and he has the fullest confidence of the President," Mr. Ziegler said.

President Nixon has been at the Western White House here since July 6, vacationing and

discussing foreign policy with his advisers. He met for the second time today with Henry A. Kissinger, his chief adviser on national security affairs, who arrived yesterday from a fact-finding trip to South Vietnam, India, Pakistan and other countries. He also stopped in Paris to see Mr. Bruce.

Talks With President

Mr. Ziegler's statements, which were made after he conferred with the President, left major questions unanswered, but they indicated that there would be no imminent public response to the Vietcong peace plan as the result of Mr. Kissinger's findings.

Asked if the President was preparing a response to the July 1 offer, Mr. Ziegler said:

"I want to throw you off the idea of a specific response to this. We are probing to determine if we can move toward meaningful negotiations. We have had proposals on the table in Paris. The question is movement to meaningful negotiations and that is where our interest is."

Speaking of Mr. Nixon at another point, he said, "at no time have we suggested that he is forming a specific reply to North Vietnam." Mr. Ziegler also repeated statements that the United States was eager to pursue negotiations through "the proper forum"—the Paris negotiations, which have continued since May, 1968.