

Rogers Says Muskie Hurt Prospects of Peace Talks

by Terence Smith

Washington, Feb. 3 - On another Vietnam question, Mr. Rogers declined to say whether Mr. Nixon or his adviser for national security, Henry A. Kissinger, had any plans to meet in Peking later this month with Le Duc Tho, the leading member of the North Vietnamese Politburo who met secretly in Paris during private peace negotiations last year.

Mr. Tho is scheduled to arrive in Peking for a visit on Feb. 20, one day before Mr. Nixon and his party are to arrive there.

While he avoided a specific answer, Mr. Rogers's reply was so phrased that it appeared to be almost an invitation to Mr. Tho for a meeting. Stressing the Administration's flexible approach to the negotiations, the Secretary said: "We are prepared to negotiate in public or in restricted session or any other way that would seem to be productive."

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