

Paris Talk Leaves U.S. Feeling Misled

NYTimes MAY 5 1972

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 4 — United States officials made a point of suggesting today that they felt they had been misled about Hanoi's purported readiness to engage in "serious" peace talks.

The phrasing of public comments today by Charles W. Bray 3d, the State Department spokesman, and private comments by other informed officials indicated that the United States felt it had been deceived by Moscow over Hanoi's intentions when the Soviet Union encouraged the Administration to resume the peace talks.

While Mr. Bray said that the day's round of the Paris discussions "seems to have gotten nowhere," he also said that he wanted to emphasize that "we remain available in every channel to discuss the issues, should the other side give some serious indication that it is prepared to negotiate."

Indefinite Paralysis Seen

Privately, however, the opinion among officials here was that the peace talks would remain paralyzed indefinitely.

Mr. Bray refused to discuss in the context of the Vietnam peace talks, the role played by Soviet diplomacy in the last three weeks.

The question was asked immediately after he had described American "disappointment" at what he called the Communist failure to reply constructively in Paris this morning to American questions about the North Vietnamese offensive.

With President Nixon scheduled to go to the Soviet Union in less than three weeks, the question of relations with Moscow in the light of the Vietnamese situation has become highly sensitive here.

But Mr. Bray made a point of recalling that on April 26, when he announced that the United States was returning to the negotiations, President Nixon said that "we are resuming the Paris talks with the firm expectation that productive talks leading to rapid progress will follow through all available channels."

On that same day, Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security, said that "we have evidence" that the proper moment had come

to test Hanoi's intentions in the negotiations.

Mr. Kissinger had returned two days earlier, on April 24, from a secret visit to Moscow, where he had met with the Soviet Communist party leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Precisely what Mr. Kissinger was told during his four-day visit to the Soviet Union has not been revealed by the Administration. At various times during the last two weeks, Government spokesmen have sought to leave the impression that the Soviet Union had encouraged the Administration to resume the peace talks.

But the Administration has consistently refused to say what prompted that conclusion. The impression was created here that the Russians had persuaded Washington to give the Paris talks another chance. The United States had broken talks off earlier this year as unproductive.

'No Longer Bound'

Earlier this week, senior officials here said in private conversations that the United States had, in effect, agreed to refrain from new attacks on major targets deep in North Vietnam as long as it was believed that the new effort in Paris might hold some promise.

The only air attacks on the Hanoi and Haiphong areas since the enemy offensive started on March 30 were on April 15 and 16. But officials said today that "we are no longer bound by any restraints" inasmuch as the new round of the Paris talks had so quickly collapsed.

Asked specifically whether the restraints had been removed at this time, Mr. Bray stressed that President Nixon had said that "all options" remained open to the United States except recommitment of combat troops and nuclear weapons.

Tells of Frustrations

Mr. Bray, commenting for the Administration on the Paris situation, said, "we are exceptionally frustrated this week."

"When it came the time to examine the negotiating baggage the other side brought to

Paris, they had nothing but empty suitcases," he said.

Asked whether the United States said had reached that conclusion at today's formal session or earlier in the week, Mr. Bray replied that "we declared our discovery this morning."

The question had been raised in the context of Mr. Bray's refusal earlier to say whether Mr. Kissinger had been in Paris in recent days to meet secretly with Le Duc Tho, the member of the Hanoi Politburo who had arrived in the French capital Sunday. ^{30 APR}

After noting that the diplomatic efforts had failed "in every available channel," quoting William J. Porter, the chief American negotiator in Paris, Mr. Bray told newsmen to draw their own "inferences" about secret talks this week.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, refused to discuss Mr. Kissinger's movements. But he said that "we obviously aren't going to talk about secret talks because if we do they would no longer be secret."