

Rogers Recalled

From Trip

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Washington

President Nixon ordered an urgent meeting of the National Security Council today on critical actions to blunt the Communist offensive in South Vietnam.

The administration's sudden activity over the weekend, after a week of concentration on the President's options for new and possibly drastic military moves against North Vietnam, indicated that a major development in the war is imminent.

Mr. Nixon recalled Secretary of State William P. Rogers from West Germany yesterday, interrupted Rogers' eight-nation tour of European capitals to discuss the President's scheduled May 22 summit trip to the Soviet Union.

Presidential security adviser Henry A. Kissinger's twice-postponed visit to Japan to repair strains in Washington-Tokyo relations was put off once again, this time with word that it would take place soon after the United States-Soviet summit talks.

ROGERS

Secretary Rogers is expected "to pick up his schedule shortly" by resuming his interrupted summit-consultation talks in Western Europe, White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said. Rogers' plans had called for further talks in Bonn today, followed by visits to Paris, Rome and Madrid.

With these references to the plans of Rogers and Kissinger, the Nixon administration was indicating once again that the United States does not intend its military actions in the Vietnamese war to jeopardize or destroy the impending Soviet-Amer-

ican summit talks.

The risk of the Moscow summit, U.S. diplomats point out, however, turns on just what action the President takes to try to slow down the Communist offensive in South Vietnam.

A decision to blockade or

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mine Haiphong harbor would risk a confrontation with the Soviet Union over its major supplies sent by sea to North Vietnam. New U.S. bombing or military targets around Hanoi and Haiphong, and elsewhere in North Vietnam, is also under consideration.

In addition, President Nixon said last Sunday that he believes an extreme action of attacking North Vietnam's "dams or dikes" to flood populated areas "would result in an enormous number of civilian casualties" and is "not needed." But the President flatly has ruled out only two actions against North Vietnam: nuclear weapons, and the reintroduction of American ground troops.

Even the latter exclusion, however, was qualified Thursday when the Pentagon said that U.S. Marines aboard the huge American fleet off the coast of North Vietnam might be used ashore if necessary to protect American lives.

If the full membership of the National Security Council is present for today's White House meeting, which appears likely, in addition to the President, Rogers and Kissinger the participants would include:

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, and George A. Lincoln, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

President Nixon does not use statutory meetings of the National Security Council to make his decisions. Those are reached in private, often at his Camp David, Md., mountain retreat, where he has been this weekend. The President generally summons a council meeting to hear advice

before making a major decision, or to inform the nation's highest officials of a decision he has already reached.

Mr. Nixon has said that, to checkmate what he has labeled "naked and unprovoked aggression" and "invasion" by North Vietnam, he is prepared "to use our military and naval strength against military targets throughout Vietnam."

The President generally couples new military actions in the Vietnamese war with a diplomatic overture, which some Washington observers again anticipate now.

The last publicly known diplomatic exchange was last Tuesday's originally secret meeting in Paris between Kissinger and North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho, arranged following Kissinger's April 20-24 talks in Moscow with Soviet Communist party chief Leonid Brezhnev. Administration officials labeled the results of the Kissinger-Tho meeting as "sterile" and "frustrating," but said there could be further encounters if circumstances warranted it.

There has been a mood of rising tension in official Washington as news of that unproductive meeting interacted with continuing adverse developments on the Vietnamese battlefield where South Vietnamese defense lines crumbled in many sectors.