

Nixon's Realistic Peace Offer

by James Reston

[Column deals with "peace terms" of 8 May 72.]

..... The military offer is specific: Release the American prisoners, agree to a supervised cease-fire, and then, within four months, "a complete withdrawal of all American forces from Vietnam . . . and a political settlement between the Vietnamese themselves . . ."

This, obviously leaves some serious questions for both sides. When could the cease-fire begin? If this took a long time to arrange, Hanoi would lose its military momentum and give Saigon and Washington room to recoup and resupply.

If the cease-fire were arranged quickly, Washington and Saigon would be committed to take the prisoners of war quickly and get all American forces out in four months."