

McGovern War Pledge -- 'I'd Go to Hanoi,' to End It

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Senator George S. McGovern celebrated his victory in California's Democratic primary with a pledge to go to Hanoi as President if it would shorten the war even by 24 hours.

His eyes optimistically fixed on the Democratic presidential nomination next month, McGovern said he felt sure that negotiating an end to the Vietnam war and the return of American prisoners of war would be one of the easiest tasks he would have to face in the White House.

"If it's necessary to go to Hanoi to accomplish that, I'll go to Hanoi to do it," McGovern told a news conference. "If we can do it in Paris, I'll go to Paris.

"I'll go anywhere in the world to meet with the leaders of the government of Hanoi to work out arrangements of an immediate end to the killing, the safe withdrawal of our forces and the release of our prisoners."

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Smartly dressed in a gray "victory suit" that he bought in Beverly Hills last week, McGovern was in high spirits following his primary victories Tuesday in California, New Jersey, Colorado and South

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WAR

Hitting hard on the issue of Vietnam, McGovern maintained to newsmen that American POWs would never be released "until we agree to the full termination of all American military operations in southeast Asia."

He accused President Nixon of "perpetrating a hoax on the American people in leaving the impression that aerial bombardment (of North Vietnam) can bring about the release of our prisoners."

McGovern said he would not go to Hanoi "just to put on a grandstand act" but, he added, "if it becomes necessary in my judgement to accelerate the end of this war, I'd be willing to go there or anyplace else that I thought would shorten the war by 24 hours."

McGovern said he has no doubts that he could "negotiate a very quick release on our prisoners and also the safety of our forces while they're withdrawing." All, he predicted, would be home within 90 days of his inauguration.

Turning to the prospects at Miami Beach in a separate press conference, McGovern's top campaign handlers, Frank Mankiewicz and Gary Hart, maintained that the Senator would be between 1335 and 1345 gates in his conclusion.