

ENVOY HINTS U.S. WOULD WELCOME NEW PEACE TALKS

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Porter, in Paris, Says Nixon
Wants Negotiated Accord
—Hanoi Shows Interest

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PARIS, June 12—William J. Porter, chief American negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks, returned here today after almost a month's absence and announced renewed interest in resuming the stalled negotiations.

Mr. Porter, using a more conciliatory tone than in the past, said at Orly Airport that "President Nixon has been intensely interested in arriving at some kind of negotiated settlement of the Vietnam problem."

"My return here at this time is an additional indication of his strong preference and hope that such a settlement can be achieved," he added.

Talks Possible Thursday

Mr. Porter's statements came after indications from Hanoi that it also was interested in resuming the talks, suspended since May 4. Xuam Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese negotiator, was quoted as saying in Hanoi over the weekend that he would return soon with "new directives." Mr. Thuy left Paris May 10.

[In Washington, a State Department spokesman said that "no signal" had been received from Hanoi to suggest that it was ready for serious talks. He added that Mr. Porter's statements should not be construed as a "signal" to Hanoi of a changed American attitude.]

The statements by Mr. Porter and Mr. Thuy created the first possibility in weeks that the talks might be resumed, possibly as early as this Thursday. When asked if he would agree to such a meeting, Mr. Porter said he needed time to assess the situation.

Mr. Porter went to the United States May 16 for what was supposed to be a short visit in Washington. But he spent more time than he had planned waiting at his home near Fall River, Mass., for the President and other officials to return from their visits to the Soviet Union, Poland and Iran.

In contrast to the acerbic tone adopted by him in previ-

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ous talks with the other side, Mr. Porter showed a softer manner this morning in discussing negotiating prospects. Asked if he had new proposals, Mr. Porter said:

"We feel that the proposals we have brought forward and to which they have made no response offer a good basis for discussion. If we can get such a discussion going, I would not care to say that it would be limited by this or that. We would try to be flexible, as we have tried to be, or intended to be, in the past."

Proposals Called 'Generous'

President Nixon's latest proposals, made May 8, called for a cease-fire in Indochina, return of prisoners and withdrawal of American forces four months after an agreement is reached. The proposals were rejected by the Communist side mainly because he did not resolve the question of the political regime in Saigon.

Mr. Porter called the proposals "very generous" but added: "We understand, I think, some of the problems which beset the other side, at least we try to understand. We are going to keep trying. This is the essential message that I bring back."

There was no official reaction from either the North Vietnamese or Vietcong delegation. Neither delegation has any high-ranking members in Paris at the moment. Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese leader who is the major power behind the delegation and who has been personally running it in Mr. Thuy's absence, left Saturday for Sofia, Bulgaria, without indicating when he would return. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong delegate, may return this week from a visit to several African countries.

'Serious' Talks Sought

The Communist side has been insisting on the regular Thursday sessions, on which newsmen are fully informed afterward, as a condition for a resumption of private talks, most of which have taken place between Le Duc Tho and Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's chief adviser on national security.



Associated Press

William J. Porter speaking at Orly Airport yesterday.

The United States has answered that it wants a clear indication that the Communists will negotiate "seriously" and halt the current military offensive.

"We are not making any conditions," Mr. Porter said today. "We simply want a serious type of conference so that we can exchange views not only about our proposals but theirs."

When he learned about what Mr. Thuy had reportedly said, he remarked that the other side was perhaps "inclined to make another effort and repeat that we are."

Other Administration officials, speaking privately, said the United States was anxious to convey its desire to be "conciliatory," but without departing from the proposals set forth by President Nixon on May 8.

There was no expectation here that the talks would resume on Thursday, largely because the chief Communist negotiators are away from Paris.

Senate sources suggested that there may be a "coincidence" in Mr. Porter's remarks and the opening of the debate here on the military aid authorization bill. The bill, now before the Senate, carries an amendment by the majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, providing for the withdrawal of all American troops from Indochina by Aug. 31.

The Mansfield amendment was described by the White House on Saturday as "hostile."