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Shriver's Attack

'Fantasy'

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State William Rogers today denounced as "political fantasy" an assertion by Sargent Shriver that President Nixon "blew" an historic chance to end the Vietnam war.

Rogers told a news conference that he has been checking statements made by the new Democratic vice presidential candidate in writing and to associates at the time Shriver resigned as ambassador to Paris early in the Nixon administration.

"He (Shriver) never suggested anything like this either in writing or orally," Rogers said.

"If there was such an historic opportunity let me say Mr. Shriver was miraculously quiet about it. "It's not really a fabrication, it is political fantasy."

Paris Post

Shriver, a brother-in-law of Sen. Edward Kennedy, (D-Mass.), and of the late President Kennedy, was Peace Corps chief during the Kennedy administration. He then went to Paris as an ambassadorial appointee of President Johnson in 1968.

He stayed at the Paris post until 1970, while Vietnam negotiations were being conducted there by Henry Cabot Lodge.

In opening his vice presidential campaign in Maryland yesterday, Shriver said he had stayed on in Paris at

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Nixon's request because he thought Nixon had an unparalleled opportunity to end the Vietnam war.

"Nixon had peace handed to him literally in his lap—he blew it," Shriver charged.

Rogers defended the Nixon Administration's record on Vietnam peace efforts but provided little encouragement that a settlement would come before the U.S. presidential election in November.

He said "prospects for peace by the negotiating route remain hopeful." But he said U.S. policy on bombing of North Vietnam, in the absence of serious movement toward a negotiated settlement, will remain the same.

Rogers said the U.S. ground combat role in South Vietnam has ended but it is possible the war itself "will continue with guerrilla activities for some time."

The Secretary of State strongly criticized Ramsey Clark, a former attorney general in the Johnson Administration, for broadcasting over Hanoi Radio that the United States ought to stop the bombing of North Vietnam. Clark has been visiting North Vietnam.

Rogers, himself a former attorney general, said, "I was shocked . . . to hear him on Radio, Hanoi was contemptible."

He found it "beyond belief" that a former high U.S. official, who he said was a Johnson Administration Cabinet member participated in decisions sending a half-million GIs to Vietnam, would engage in such activity "at a time when American men are flying over there and are losing their lives."

Shriver yesterday did not refer to any specific incident

in the peace talks, but said he feels chances were greater then than now for North Vietnamese acceptance of the terms the Nixon administration has now offered.

"I thought he had one of the great historic opportunities of my lifetime. I thought he could have stopped the war. In my judgment, it would not have been difficult. I think we would have gotten better terms in 1969 than he can today."

Reciting Nixon's most recent peace conditions, Shriver said: "Now we're happy to get out completely within 90 days after our prisoners of war are returned and a supervised cease-fire is agreed to."

"Then," he said, "I could assure it would have been as good as that or better . . . Nixon had the same opportunity President Eisenhower had in Korea."

Shriver noted that in 1969 the United States still had the bargaining - chip power created by the presence in Vietnam of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops.

Shriver said that, while he disagreed, he did not precipitate a public confrontation with the President over Vietnam because "I do not believe in that kind of fireworks."

"There was no falling out and no fight," he said. "I did not want a public fight with him, and they did not want a fight with me."