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# Harriman and Vance Claim Shriver Right in War Charge

Averell Harriman and Cyrus Vance, the two original U.S. negotiators at the Paris peace talks, said yesterday that President Nixon ignored a peace opportunity in 1969 when North Vietnam withdrew most of its combat troops from South Vietnam's northernmost provinces.

They said in a joint statement that Hanoi signalled this intention in late 1968, but instead of taking the opportunity to negotiate, Mr. Nixon opted for shoring up the Saigon regime.

North Vietnam, of course, had not officially acknowledged that it had troops in South Vietnam, and the signal about which Harriman and Vance spoke was an indirect one.

There was no immediate comment from the State Department.

The two former U.S. ambassadors made their allegation after Secretary of State William P. Rogers accused Sargent Shriver of "political fantasy" in claiming that President Nixon in 1969 "blew" a historic chance to end the Vietnam war on better terms than he can get now.

Shriver, who said he stayed on as ambassador to France for a year after Nixon's inauguration because he thought

the President would quickly end the war and Shriver could help, is now the Democratic vice presidential candidate.

"We support completely Sargent Shriver's view that President Nixon lost an opportunity for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam when he

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took office," Harriman and Vance said in a joint statement.

"At that time North Vietnam had signaled its willingness to reduce the level of violence by withdrawing almost 90 per cent of its troops—22 of 25 regiments—from the northern two provinces which had been the area of fierce fighting," they said.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell emerged from his self-imposed political exile to accuse Ramsey Clark of "outrageous conduct" and demand that Democratic nominee George McGovern repudiate him.

Mitchell, who resigned as President Nixon's campaign manager under pressure from his wife, Martha, said in a statement that McGovern had said more than a year ago that

Clark would be "perfect" as a successor to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

"What a travesty: To replace the great J. Edgar Hoover, foremost adversary of domestic subversion for half a century, with a man who has allowed himself to be manipulated by a Communist regime that has upon its hands the blood of 55,000 American servicemen," said Mitchell.

Clark, who was President Johnson's Attorney General, is on a two-week tour of North Vietnam, and has been quoted almost daily by Hanoi Radio as criticizing Mr. Nixon's bombing campaign.

Mitchell said McGovern, who reportedly supported Clark for the FBI post in an Oct. 3, 1971, interview with The Miami Herald, "has an obligation to repudiate publicly the outrageous conduct of his senior adviser, fulltime supporter and prospective FBI director."