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A New Peace Bid Reported

New York

The Nixon administration is working on a Vietnam peace proposal that would give Hanoi "a fair chance" of getting rid of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, it was reported yesterday.

Time magazine said national security affairs adviser Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese negotiators Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy have been conducting "a sort of flirtation" in Paris. The magazine attributed the information to a Nixon administration official quoted by Hanoi.

The administration is

working on "a broader set of Vietnam peace proposals" to give Hanoi "an option on the future through a process of political evolution," *Time* said.

This means, according to the quoted official, a formula whereby the United States would withdraw militarily and leave the political settlement up to Saigon and Hanoi.

"In other words, the U.S. would be willing to leave things so that Hanoi has a fair chance of getting rid of Thieu by itself —without, however, the U.S.'s doing the North's dirty work," the article said.

United Press
