

# RUSK DENIES NIXON MISSED PEACE SIGN

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He Disputes Shriver View of Hanoi Pullback in '68

NYTimes

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 16 (UPI) — Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk disagrees with some of his former colleagues that the Nixon Administration muffed a chance to end the Vietnam war early in 1969.

Mr. Rusk said yesterday that although the North Vietnamese pulled some forces out of South Vietnam late in 1968, North Vietnamese diplomats then in Paris "didn't give any hint that this was a sign or a signal" that they were willing to make a quick peace.

His comments were made in a television interview with station KRON-TV in connection with the American Bar Association convention.

Mr. Rusk, who was Secretary of State under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, acknowledged that there was a difference of interpretation among State Department experts on the North Vietnamese move.

"There were some people on our side who attached some significance to the withdrawal of the North Vietnamese forces across the DMZ," Mr. Rusk said. But he added that if the troop pullback had been a peace gesture the North Vietnamese would have followed it up in some way at the Paris talks.

"That didn't happen," Mr. Rusk said.

He said that Sargeant Shriver, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, was in Paris at the time as United States Ambassador and "was fully briefed on everything that was happening and he had all the reports from South Vietnam on

the disposition of North Vietnamese forces."

Therefore, Mr. Rusk said, the contention by Mr. Shriver that a temporary North Vietnamese troop pullback was a peace opportunity that the Nixon Administration "blew" really amounts to a different interpretation of the meaning of that pullback.

## McGovern Adviser Comments

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16— Paul C. Warnke, the former Defense Department official named by Senator George Mc-

Govern yesterday as his foreign policy liaison with the White House, agreed with other Democrats today that President Nixon "blew" an opportunity for peace in Vietnam.

Mr. Warnke, who served as Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Johnson, said at a press conference that there was a definite signal of willingness to reduce hostilities on the part of the North Vietnamese in late 1968 and early 1969. If the signal had been followed, he said, "there would have been a good chance of bringing the war to a political end."

President Johnson, Mr. Warnke said, was unable to pursue the matter because the South Vietnamese "were dragging their feet" about negotiations "at the strong hint of someone connected with the Nixon campaign."

That someone, he said, was Mrs. Anna Chennault, who was chairman of a citizens' group for Mr. Nixon in 1968. Mrs. Chennault, he said, indicated to the South Vietnamese that they would "get a better deal if they waited until President Nixon was in office."