

Hoped-For Peace Speech

MIAMI BEACH — President Nixon has been hoping to utilize his acceptance speech tomorrow to boost his presidential campaign by announcing dramatic new progress toward a negotiated pull-out in Vietnam.

The President put unusually heavy pressure on Hanoi the past month to reach a settlement before the end of this convention, both through the punishment of heavy bombing in North Vietnam and the diplomatic efforts of White House Adviser Henry Kissinger.

SECRECY IN THIS sensitive period remains high, and something may be cooking that the President can spill. The President's sense of political timing is excellent and he has viewed his speech as an exceptional opportunity to drop a foreign policy blockbuster.

Nixon's plan is a revival of a similar idea to transform his 1968 presidential acceptance speech into a sensational foreign policy announcement. That idea did not work out four years ago.

The surprise Nixon had planned to spring during his 1968 speech was a journey to the Soviet Union. The idea was to dramatize his familiarity with foreign affairs before the campaign officially opened and to contrast his own welcome there with President Johnson's inability to arrange such a visit.

The Soviet Union grew jittery however about seeming to intervene in the American election and all Nixon's appointments with top Soviet brass were abruptly cancelled.

This year's plans for a Vietnam announcement may have been complicated by

Democratic rival George McGovern. His supporters have been pointing out to Hanoi that McGovern offers a better deal than Nixon has yet to do. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who has been identified with the McGovern campaign, made sympathetic noises to Hanoi both during and after a visit there.

And last week it was suddenly revealed that Pierre Salinger, acting on behalf of McGovern, has met secretly with Hanoi delegation officials in Paris.

McGovern at first denied having authorized the former Kennedy White House Press Secretary to speak to the North Vietnamese. Later he reversed himself and said Salinger had been instructed only to request an early release of the prisoners of war.

That did not clear up the suspicion, however, that McGovern's message to Hanoi may have gone beyond the prisoner problem and interfered with Kissinger's peace efforts. In view of North Vietnamese alertness to U.S. politics, at a minimum Salinger's meddling could not have been helpful.

"I PLACE ENDING the war ahead of my campaign," McGovern insisted defensively. Undoubtedly so does Richard Nixon. But that has not prevented either man from trying to use the war issue to his own political advantage.

Those who run for high office tend to believe their own election is the most important question before the country and therefore everything should be bent to that end.