

# Hanoi Trip Deal Sought For Hoffa, U.S. Aide Says

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said today that James R. Hoffa's lawyer had suggested a deal under which Hoffa would be allowed to return to union activities if he won the release of some American prisoners of war from North Vietnam.

Mr. Kleindienst said that the proposal had been rejected by his deputy, Ralph Erickson, during a meeting on Aug. 28 with the lawyer, William L. Taub.

[United Press International reported that Hoffa said in a telephone interview in Detroit: "I never heard of that. That's a brand new one on me. I don't understand."

[Referring to the report of a proposed deal and his difficulties in traveling to Hanoi, Hoffa said: "I don't think that has a thing to do with it. It's my money, my time, there's nobody else going. Taub met with Kleindienst, I think a week ago Monday. That meeting, as far as I know, was just to secure my passport and permission to travel. Taub never discussed it with me."]

Hoffa and Mr. Taub were due to leave yesterday for Hanoi to discuss the release of the prisoners. They canceled that trip, but Mr. Taub told newsmen in New York today that

he and Hoffa were still planning to fly to Hanoi at an undisclosed date.

State Department officials said today that Hoffa, former president of the teamsters union, had retained his passport with the validation for travel to North Vietnam issued by the State Department's Passport Office on Wednesday.

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They said that the department was seeking to reach both Hoffa and Mr. Taub, a New York lawyer, to have the passports returned for elimination of the travel validation.

Meanwhile, State Department officials said that Secretary of State William Rogers cabled urgent instructions at 5:30 P.M. yesterday to the United States embassies in Paris, London, Moscow, Stockholm and Vietiane, Laos, to check airline arrivals in the event that Hoffa and Mr. Taub turned up next week. If they did, he ordered, the officials should seek recovery of the passports long enough to eliminate the validation.

There was no intent to rescind the passports, Mr. Rogers reportedly made clear, but only to eliminate the validation, which otherwise might be construed as formal United States approval of negotiations by private individuals with a foreign power.

Meanwhile, Hoffa was reported to have flown by private plane to a little-used airport in northern Michigan to avoid reporters. Mr. Taub, who had been reached at the Hotel Warwick in New York yesterday, was said to have checked out without disclosing his destination.

## Recriminations Mount

Confusion and recrimination between Government agencies mounted over who was responsible for the idea of a Hoffa visit to Hanoi to "negotiate" release of American prisoners of war. Reliable sources said that Mr. Rogers, Attorney General Kleindienst

and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security, were all involved to varying degrees. Relations between their offices had become strained in recent days, these sources added.

Mr. Rogers was reported to have been irate on learning that subordinates had validated the passports of Hoffa and Mr. Taub.

Ronald L. Ziegler, White House press secretary, said that Mr. Kissinger had told Le Duc Tho, the chief North Vietnamese peace negotiator in Paris, in July that Hoffa's plan to visit Hanoi was a "private matter and did not represent the United States."

Mr. Ziegler said that Mr. Kissinger had been notified July 5 by Mr. Taub that Hoffa would like to go to Hanoi and involve himself in seeking the release of prisoners. The Kissinger notification to Le Duc Tho came in July 28.

Instead of expressing prompt and clear-cut opposition to the Hoffa plan, however, Mr. Kissinger instead made clear, Mr. Ziegler said, that the Administration "prefers to do its own negotiating" and that Hoffa "could not negotiate or act as an emissary for the U. S."

"We have not and will not, of course, encourage these private contacts although they do occur," Mr. Ziegler explained. "They generally have not been helpful and in some cases have been counterproductive."

Mr. Taub has reported that the invitation to Hoffa was extended by the North Vietnam trade union movement.

Charles W. Bray III, State Department spokesman, yesterday confirmed Mr. Rogers' anger on discovering "irregularities" in the issuance of the two validations. Mr. Bray stressed that "subordinate" officials had granted them without due clearance from Miss Barbara M. Waton, administrator of the bureau of security and consular affairs. Mr. Bray declined to identify the individuals or indicate what corrective measures—if any—were being adopted.

Mr. Bray stressed that the Secretary of State has statutory authority from the President to restrict general travel to certain areas or to validate travel to these areas for certain categories of travelers such as journalists, scientists, scholars and Red Cross representatives

## Travel Cannot Be Barred

Under Supreme Court rulings, American citizens cannot be barred from foreign travel but may not use their passports if they visit such restricted areas as Cuba, North Korea and North Vietnam.

Mr. Rogers has directed State Department officials to refuse comment about the Hoffa case. Nonetheless, from a variety of qualified sources it has been learned that last week

Commissioner Raymond F. Farrell, head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Justice Department, warned the State Department's passport office that a "hot case"—the Hoffa case—was up for passport validation for travel to Hanoi and to treat it "discreetly."

Two days ago, Hoffa, who had flown in from Detroit, and Mr. Taub, who came from New York, met at the passport office to apply for validations. Hoffa, who is on parole from a Federal penitentiary, showed permission from the Detroit parole office for travel to Paris and Hanoi.