

President Cautions Hanoi Not to Await Elections

NYTimes

OCT 6 1972

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5— President Nixon said today that he was trying to convince the North Vietnamese, presumably through Henry A. Kissinger's private talks, that it would be in Hanoi's best interests to reach a settlement of the war before the election, rather than wait for the possibility of a McGovern victory.

At a news conference in his Oval Office this morning, Mr. Nixon said the talks had reached a "sensitive" stage. But, though his manner seemed generally optimistic, he refused to reveal any more than he has before about the substance of those talks. [Question 3, Page 28.]

He conceded, even charged, that Hanoi would receive more favorable settlement terms if Senator George S. McGovern, the Democratic Presidential candidate was elected in November. He said that while he, as President, had deter-

mined never to impose "a Communist government directly or indirectly on the people of Vietnam," Senator McGovern had taken a "contrary" position.

But he left little doubt that he has been trying to tell the

News conference transcript
is printed on Page 28. *

the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong that they would be wise to count on a Nixon victory.

"We are talking," he said in reference to the negotiations. "If we have the opportunity, we will continue to talk before this election and we will try to convince them that waiting until after the election is not good strategy." [Question 4.]

Mr. Nixon also said, as he has before, that the impending elections "will not in any way influence what we do at the negotiating table." His basic

Continued on Page 13, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

objective, he insisted, was and still is a non-Communist Vietnam and he is therefore determined not to sacrifice that objective to the potential political profit of a cease-fire, a bombing halt, or an over-all settlement.

Drawing on recent history to reinforce his point, he said the bombing halt arranged by President Lyndon B. Johnson before the 1968 elections had been a "very, very great mistake" because it had failed to win equivalent concessions from Hanoi. He insisted that he would "not make that mistake" again.

Mr. Nixon described the present negotiations as "extensive" but said he could not predict if or when they would succeed.

His comments came about 12 hours after his deputy national security aide Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., returned from four days of consultations with South Vietnamese leaders in Saigon. And they followed by about one week two days of private negotiations between Mr. Kissinger, the President's security adviser, and North Vietnamese and Vietcong officials in Paris.

In response to another question, the President asserted that "the back of the enemy offensive" had been broken in South Vietnam, in part because of his decision to renew the bombing of North Vietnam and to mine North Vietnamese harbors. (Question 5.)

Filed Nix Ad

[Complete]