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SFE Examiner Laird Blasts McG For 'Viet Surrender'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Defense Secretary Melvin Laird accused Sen. George McGovern today of advocating "unconditional surrender" in Vietnam.

Laird struck back at the Democratic presidential candidate, who last night outlined his program for ending the Vietnam war.

"Sen. McGovern would undermine our Vietnamization program," Laird told a news conference.

"He would abandon negotiation in favor of a pure giveaway program with guarantees for absolutely nothing."

'Reverse Dominoes'

Laird called the news conference ostensibly to discuss the outlines of next year's defense budget, but he was obviously primed to strike back at McGovern.

He claimed McGovern was advocating "a sort of reverse application of the domino theory" which Laird said was embraced by the late President Kennedy.

That theory, as it is generally regarded, held that the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists would lead to the progressive fall of other Southeast Asian countries.

"He would sell out to Communism the small nations of

the world through a policy of retreat and surrender," Laird said.

Nixon Away

At the White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said, President Nixon did not watch McGovern's televised speech because 'he was working' at his Camp David retreat.

Ziegler declined to offer a White House reaction or comment on the McGovern plan.

He said, in response to questions, that Sen. McGovern's staff had received on Sept. 29 the 'full national security briefing' which Nixon instructed his aides to provide the Democratic nominee.

The briefing was given by Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Henry Kissinger's top assistant, to McGovern adviser Paul Warnke.

Ziegler said he did not know whether the McGovern aide was given an up-to-date report on the Vietnam negotiations. "I don't know what was covered," he said.

Labor Critics

Even before McGovern's speech went on the air, the Nixon campaign organization delivered to newsmen statements criticizing the plan, including three by pro-Nixon labor union officials:

• Thomas W. (Teddy) Gleason, president of the International Longshoremen's Association: "... The first national campaign speech any candidate has ever delivered on his knees ... since he (McGovern) has obviously lost this election, he seems to have decided to try and win the Lenin Peace Prize instead."

• Jesse M. Calhoun, president of the National Marine Engineers Beneficial Association: "George McGovern's credible willingness to parrot the Hanoi line on Vietnam makes him one of

the greatest American sell-out artists ... he is going to run another of his so-called peace plans up the flagpole to see how many hippies, draft dodgers and gay liberationists salute it."

• Frank Fitzsimmons, president of the Teamsters Union: "... If he (said) anything to spook Hanoi away from the peace settlement that now seems so near, the whole world will know that the blood is on George McGovern's hands for every single day that this war needlessly continues."

AFL-CIO President George Meany issued a statement saying that "instead of emphasizing Hanoi's responsibility for continuing the bloodshed, the opponents of our country's policy do nothing but blame the United States."

'Surrender'

Republican National Chairman Robert Dole said McGovern was advocating "unconditional surrender and unconditional amnesty." Former Treasury Secretary John Connally of Democrats For Nixon said he believed most Americans would stand behind Nixon "in carrying out his policy because we are not coming out of Vietnam a defeated nation with our tails between our legs ..."

Secretary Elliot L. Richardson of the Health, Education and Welfare Department said letting McGovern settle the war would be turning the assignment over to a "well-meaning but vacillating and impractical man whose policies foreshadow failure."