

McGovern's Plan For Peace in Viet

By Thomas B. Ross

WASHINGTON — (CST) — Sen. George McGovern declared last night that he would withdraw all support for South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu and accept a coalition government in Saigon in order to end the war and obtain the release of the U.S. prisoners held by Hanoi.

The Democratic presidential candidate asserted in effect that he could promptly obtain a peace settlement that has eluded President Nixon in more than three years of secret negotiations with the North Vietnamese.

McGovern outlined his "public plan" to end the war

in a national television address shortly after the White House announced that Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser, Henry Kissinger, was extending his talks with the North Vietnamese into a fourth day today.

Most of the plan had been disclosed by McGovern before, but he added three new refinements: a promise, if elected, to send Vice President Sargent Shriver to Hanoi to speed the return of the prisoners of war; a pledge to withdraw all U.S. military forces, not only from Southeast Asia but also from nearby waters, as soon as

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the POWs are released, and a specific endorsement of international recognition for a coalition government in Saigon.

Despite rising speculation that a settlement may be afoot in Paris, McGovern derided Kissinger's highly publicized "secret" meetings with the "other side" and suggested they were no more than a cover for waging a "wider war."

'Promise Broken'

He referred several times to Nixon's "secret plan to end the war" and charged that the 1968 campaign "promise has been broken."

McGovern declared that upon entering the White House he would "immediately stop all bombing and acts of force in all parts of Indochina . . . terminate any shipments of military supplies to continue that war (and) begin the orderly withdrawal of all American forces (to be completed) within 90 days."

He also said he would instruct U.S. negotiators in Paris to advise the North Vietnamese that they would be expected to abide by their own peace proposals and "return all prisoners of war . . . within 90 days to coincide with our complete withdrawal from the war."

'No Interference'

In addition, McGovern said Hanoi and the Viet Cong would be notified that the United States will no longer interfere in the internal policies of Vietnam, and that we will allow the Vietnamese people to work out their own settlement.

After the POWs are returned and the missing in action accounted for, McGovern promised to "close our bases in Thailand, to bring home any troops and equipment still there, and to reassign elsewhere any ships still stationed in the waters adjoining Indochina."

McGovern, meantime, said today on NBC's Today show that while his plan "is not risk free," he sees "no other way to terminate the war."

Asked if his proposal would insure a North Vietnamese takeover of South Vietnam, he said "that's a prospect that we can't control even if we stay there another five or ten years."

'Not Surrender'

He also rejected charges by Republican critics that his seven-point plan was tantamount to a surrender.

McGovern pointed out that if the United States with-

drew all its forces from Vietnam 90 days after his inauguration, the Saigon government would be left with an army of more than a million men plus all the equipment that the United States has provided to the South Vietnamese.

"That is not exactly a surrender," he said.

McGovern went on the road today — in Chicago and Wheaton, Ill.; in Erie, Pa., and tonight, in Boston.

Denounces Thieu

McGovern delivered a long denunciation of Thieu, insisting he is running a "corrupt dictatorship" and that "every GI who has served in Vietnam knows that's the truth."

McGovern touched quickly on the controversial subject of amnesty without specifically mentioning the word. He promised to give those who "could not in conscience fight this war . . . the opportunity to come home."

He did not propose any punishment for them but said: "Personally, if I were in their position, I would volunteer for two years of public service on subsistence pay simply to demonstrate that my objection was not to serving the nation, but to participating in a war I thought was morally wrong."

"We are not a vindictive or mean-spirited people. And we must act as Lincoln told us — 'with malice toward none and charity for all.'"