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# A Break Hinted In Peace Talks

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WASHINGTON — An Eastern European diplomat with unusually close ties to North Vietnam believes there may be an official announcement of a breakthrough in the Paris Peace talks near the end of this month.

It could involve something dramatic, but more probably will be simply a joint U.S.-North Vietnamese communique announcing the beginning of an intensified round of talks.

This is the view of the diplomat who has conferred recently with North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front negotiators in Paris and who is in Washington to, among other things, talk to Dr. Henry Kissinger.

The diplomat, who asked during an interview not to be identified, said U.S. willingness to accept a "caretaker" interim government in South Vietnam had paved the way for a political settlement.

#### Broad Outlines

He contended the Paris talks were in a serious stage but cautioned that only the broad outlines of a settlement might be arrived at before election day.

He also cautioned there was still strong opposition in some Hanoi quarters to a settlement and therefore it was still possible North Vietnam would decide to totally reject the Nixon administration's terms.

This could leave President Nixon with no alternative than to disclose publicly the present American negotiating position, once again

heaping scorn on the other side for rejecting the most "liberal" terms ever offered. The diplomat said Hanoi was well aware that Nixon might resort to such tactics.

#### More Disclosures

In an informal, wide-ranging discussion these additional disclosures were made about the current state of the Paris talks:

- The United States has had detailed discussions with both North Vietnamese and NLF representatives about the composition of an interim "caretaker" government that would organize new elections in South Vietnam.

The diplomat said several of the individuals being seriously considered for the interim government currently reside in Paris and are being consulted by both sides to the talks.

- Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the diminutive chief of the Viet Cong delegation to the peace talks, has been engaged in round the clock talks with both Kissinger and her North Vietnamese counterparts.

It has not previously been revealed that Madame Binh is involved at all in the secret negotiations.

- Soviet and Chinese "advice" to Hanoi to settle the conflict has been the single most important factor in producing the current round of "serious" talks.

Hanoi reportedly is convinced Nixon's desire for a landslide victory has made the United States more eager for a settlement and more flexible in its negotiating terms.