

...The North Vietnamese statement also revealed that since October 9th the U.S. has on three occasions postponed the mutually agreed-upon timetables through the implementation of the peace agreements.

According to the statement, at the initiative of the United States, agreement on an initial timetable was reached on October 9th. This timetable called for the United States to stop the mining and bombing of North Vietnam on October 18th. The next day, October 19th, the text of the peace agreement was to have been initialed by the two parties in Hanoi, and on October 26th the agreement was to have been formally signed in Paris by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

However, on October 10th, the Vietnam News Agency statement said, the U.S. side proposed a change in this schedule, to which the North Vietnamese agreed. The stopping of the mining and bombing of North Vietnam was moved back to October 21st, the initialing of the agreement in Hanoi to October 22nd, and the formal signing in Paris was moved back to October 30th.

But on October 20th, just one day before the mining and bombing of North Vietnam was to have been stopped, the U.S. proposed yet another delay in the timetable. Claiming that there were still a number of unagreed points, the U.S. proposed the following revision: On October 23rd the bombing and mining of North Vietnam would stop, on October 24th the two parties would initial the text of the agreement in Hanoi, and on October 31st the peace agreement would be formally signed in Paris. Once again the North Vietnamese side agreed to this revision of the timetable. In agreeing to this second delay in the schedule, they stressed that the U.S. should not under any pretext change this agreed-upon schedule. (OVER)

But on October 23rd, the statement said, the U.S. side once again hedged on an agreed-on schedule. (OVER)

[1st Nixon letter Oct. 20, 2nd Nixon letter 22 October]

Instead of halting the mining and bombing of North Vietnam as the agreed-on timetable called for, the U.S. referred to difficulties in Saigon and demanded that negotiations be continued for resolving new problems. The U.S. statement did not say anything about implementing its commitments according to the agreed-on time schedule.....

Time Magazine chronology omits 9 Oct 72 and gives date agreement was first reached as 12 Oct, eliminating the first request for change in schedule, given by the North Vietnamese as 10 Oct.

Nguyen Thanh Le, Hanoi spokesman in Paris, quoted as saying 27 Oct 73 that Nixon himself proposed the 31 Oct date for signature, in his letter of 20 Oct to Pham Van Dong.

Nixon, expected to stay at Camp David until evening of 22 Oct 72, returned unexpectedly to White House just after noon. NYTimes 23 Oct 72, story by Linda Charlton, filed Nix Ad.