

# Hanoi Charges U.S. 'Backing Off Pact'

Examiner News Services

SAIGON — North Vietnam declared today that the United States agreed to sign a peace pact next Tuesday but then backed off and asked for further negotiations, saying it was having difficulty getting Saigon to go along.

A nine-point agreement was reached with Washington and Hanoi is ready to sign it on Oct. 31, the North Vietnamese announcement said.

The agreement as announced by Hanoi Radio called for the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam 60 days after the treaty was signed, during which period American and other

prisoners of war would be released. Hanoi said the United States already had agreed to halt the bombing of North Vietnam and the mining of its harbors.

The key paragraph of the Hanoi announcement said:

"The governments of the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam and the United States have reached an agreement for settling of the war in Vietnam that will restore peace to Vietnam."

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the war in Vietnam that will restore peace to Vietnam."

The statement said the U.S. had agreed to the plan in "private meetings" — an obvious reference to the secret sessions in Paris between Presidential Adviser Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho.

It called for a cease-fire in Vietnam within 24 hours of the signing of a peace agreement. All prisoners of the war would be released and all American and foreign troops would be withdrawn within 60 days.

Negotiations would then begin between the Saigon government and the Viet Cong to arrange elections for a coalition government.

"The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam firmly demands that the U.S. government carry out exactly and correctly the agreed upon points and sign the agreement on Oct. 31 in order to end the war and restore peace in Vietnam," the statement said.

Hanoi ridiculed the "claim of so-called difficulties in Saigon," calling it "simply an excuse which the U.S. side borrows to postpone the realization of those matters on which the United States has already given its promise."

The North Vietnamese statement gave this account of the recent peace negotiations:

Hanoi submitted its proposal for a cease-fire and election of a coalition government to Kissinger in Paris on Oct. 8, when the Americans began five days of secret talks with Le Duc Tho of the North Vietnamese Politburo.

The United States indicated its satisfaction with the proposal and agreed to this

timetable: bombing of North Vietnam to stop Oct. 18, representatives of the two sides to initial the peace agreement in Hanoi on Oct. 19 and Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh of North Vietnam to sign it in Paris on Oct. 26.

On Oct. 11, Kissinger's fourth day in Paris, he proposed—and the North Vietnamese agreed to—a modified timetable calling for the bombing to end Oct. 21, the Hanoi initialing on Oct. 22 and the Paris signing on Oct. 30.

Then on Oct. 20, the second day of Kissinger's negotiations in Saigon with Thieu, the United States asked for the timetable to be delayed again, with the final signing scheduled for Oct. 31, and Hanoi agreed.

## Nixon Messages

But on Oct. 23, while Kissinger and Thieu were still negotiating, the United States again backed off, "claiming that it was having difficulties in Saigon" and asked for further discussions.

At one point the Hanoi statement referred to two messages from President Nixon to North Vietnam's premier. In one sent Oct. 10, the statement said, Nixon "confirmed that the formulation of the agreement could be considered complete," but in addition he "raised a number of complex points."

On Oct. 22, the statement said, Nixon sent another message in which he "expressed satisfaction with the explanations" given by Hanoi. "Thus by Oct. 22, 1972, the formulation of the agreement was complete," the Hanoi statement said.

## "All Parties"

The North Vietnamese made no mention of the cease-fire applying to Cam-

bodia and Laos as well as Vietnam, something Thieu and President Nixon have demanded in the past.

Instead, it said "all parties in the Vietnam war" would recognize the sovereignty and neutrality of the two other Indochinese nations, the the United States would end all military activities in the two countries, withdraw all troops and send no more troops or weapons there.

Nixon and Thieu also demanded that any cease-fire be internationally supervised. The Hanoi plan provided for forming an international committee on military control and supervision as well as calling an international conference on Vietnam within 30 days of the signing of the agreement.

Hanoi was silent on withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam. Thieu in a broadcast Tuesday made this a condition for his agreement to a truce.

Instead, Hanoi said the Saigon government and the Viet Cong would "negotiate with each other on disposition and reduction of the troops of each side." Hanoi contends it has no troops in South Vietnam.

Thieu in his broadcast also declared he would never accept a coalition government in South Vietnam.

## Bombing Cut

The United States has already sharply curtailed its bombing of North Vietnam, flying only about 100 fighter-bomber strikes a day instead of the 250-300 a day it flew in recent months.

This week the raids were limited to targets below the 20th Parallel, well south of Hanoi and Haiphong.

Police in Da Nang captured a document ordering the Viet Cong to begin a cease-fire at 11 a.m. Saturday.