

# McGovern Voices Hope That Cease-Fire Is Near

OCT 27 1972

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

IOWA CITY, Oct. 26—Senator George McGovern expressed hope here today that the Nixon Administration's confidence of an imminent cease-fire in the Vietnam war was well founded. But he refused, in a carefully worded speech to 15,000 people on the campus of the University of Iowa, to credit the Nixon Administration for the prospect of peace, saying that those who had opposed the war deserved "much of the credit."

## Aides Seemed Worried

Senator McGovern learned of the White House briefing on the Vietnam peace situation by Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, as he was leaving Detroit.

Despite the efforts of his senior staff members to appear to take the possibility of a settlement in stride, their faces were serious and it seemed obvious that they were worried about the political effects of Dr. Kissinger's announcement.

In his speech in Iowa City, Senator McGovern implied, without saying so directly, that the President's search for a settlement had been timed to the Nov. 7 election.

"The question that haunts

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my mind this afternoon," he told the cheering audience "is this: Why, Mr. Nixon, did you take another four more years' to put an end to this tragic war?"

"What did either we or the rest of the world gain by the killing of another 20,000 young Americans these past four years?"

"What did we get from the terrible unprecedented bombardment that has gone on these last four years—bombardment and artillery attacks that we are told have either killed or maimed or driven out of their homes some six million people, most of them in South Vietnam?"

## Parallels to 1954 Seen

Despite the Administration's attempt to demonstrate hard-won concessions from North Vietnam, the Democratic Presidential nominee continued to adhere to his view that the settlement being negotiated now was no different from what might have been obtained when Mr. Nixon took office in 1969.

"I'm haunted," he said, "as I look at the outline of the proposals that apparently have been accepted in large part by our Government, accepted by the government, apparently, of Hanoi, proposals that are very similar to the proposals that the French accepted back in 1954 at the end of their tragic involvement in Vietnam."

Mr. McGovern said that he hoped "with all my heart" that the President would not permit President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam to "stand in the way of a settlement of this war."

## 'My Hope and My Prayer'

To the cheers of the youthful audience and the applause of Senator Harold E. Hughes of Iowa, who introduced him, Mr. McGovern said:

"There are at least reports that seem to have some substance that a cease-fire and perhaps an end to the war in Vietnam is approaching.

"I know that everyone in this audience shares my hope and my prayer that those reports will turn out to be true and that peace will at long last come to this tragic part of the world.

"And if it does, I want to say to this great audience here today that many of you deserve much of the credit for the restoration of peace."

He said that Senator Hughes and others who had "spoken out for so many years against this war" deserved credit for having sought peace "at a time when Mr. Nixon and others were giving their full support to the war."

In Detroit, Senator McGovern declined to comment specifically on the Nixon Administration's description of the settlement that was being negotiated, but pledged his "full support and cooperation" for any moves between Washington and Hanoi toward settling the war in Vietnam.

At the same time, he expressed disappointment that the agreement had not been reached much sooner.

In reply to a question about what effect a settlement would have on the war, Senator