

U.S. SAYS ACCORD WILL NOT BE SIGNED BY HANOI DEADLINE

Agnew and Others Rule Out
a Pact Tomorrow but Are
Optimistic on One Soon

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INTELLIGENCE IS CITED

'Signals' From Foe Said to
Indicate North Vietnamese
Would Not End Talks

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 — Administration officials said without qualification today that the Indochina peace accord would not be signed by Tuesday, the deadline set by North Vietnam but at the same time, they continued to express optimism about an early settlement of remaining details.

Moreover, Vice President Agnew, appearing in a television interview, sought to assure North Vietnam that the United States was not seeking to renege on the nine-point agreement reached by Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho in Paris earlier this month.

"Substantially, the agreement has been hammered out and there are just a few matters to be made crystal clear between the parties before it can be made final," Mr. Agnew said on the "Issues and Answers" program on the American Broadcasting Company. "There is no question about the principal parts of the agreement as I see it."

Hanoi Pushed Signing Date

When North Vietnam on Thursday made public the details of the draft agreement reached by Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, and Mr. Tho, the member of the North Vietnamese Politburo who is charged with the negotiations, it insisted that the United States sign by Oct. 31—Tuesday—as Washington once indicated it would try to do.

In recent days, Hanoi's spokesmen have charged—both in private and in public—that the Administration was trying to break away from the accord, which provides for a cease-fire in place in Vietnam and the machinery for a new political arrangement in South Vietnam.

It also calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia, the withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam, an end of American military action

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U.S. Rules Out a Final Accord by Oct. 31

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against North Vietnam and the release of prisoners of war.

So far, Hanoi has not publicly dropped its insistence on the Oct. 31 signing date, but Administration officials noted today that several recent Hanoi broadcasts had dropped specific references to the Oct. 31 deadline, and were limited to criticizing Washington for "delaying" the signing.

Washington has also received intelligence reports indicating that Hanoi would meet the American request for a final negotiating session to wrap up the remaining questions.

These public and private signals have heavily influenced the optimism in the Administration that the North Vietnamese would not break off the talks over the question of a deadline.

The Administration has refused to say whether another negotiating date has, in fact, been reached with Hanoi. But officials noted that Mr. Kissinger was still in Washington today and that Mr. Tho had not yet left Hanoi, where he returned from Paris two weeks ago, after reaching the draft agreement.

Meeting With Thieu Needed

A high Administration official said yesterday that even after a final negotiating session with the North Vietnamese, the United States would still want a further meeting in Saigon to get the concurrence of President Nguyen Van Thieu, who has publicly objected to parts of the agreement.

This would mean that even under the most favorable circumstances, it would be unlikely that an agreement could be signed before Nov. 7, the American Election Day.

Administration officials do not deny that "rough" moments will occur when Mr. Thieu is asked to join in the agreement, but they still believe that in the end, he will concur—even though the accord will allow 145,000 North Vietnamese to remain in South Vietnam and permit the Vietcong to have legal control over part of South Vietnam, provisions particularly objectionable to Mr. Thieu.

Agnew Describes Stance

Mr. Agnew said that Mr. Thieu's reservations should be regarded as more for domestic consumption than anything else.

"You have got to realize," the Vice President said, "that people—political people who stand before their own constituencies—have to take certain strong positions, and President Thieu, being an elected person, has to make certain that the people of his country understand that he is not buckling in to any North Vietnamese demands for an imposed coalition government, and that the existing South Vietnamese structure, put there by elections in the village level and at the national level, will not be simply abandoned in any giveaway kind of settlement."

The proposed agreement calls for a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord, which the Communists have treated as amounting to a coalition government. But Mr.

Kissinger has said that it was not a government and he listed this as a "linguistic" problem that had to be ironed out between English and Vietnamese texts.

Mr. Agnew said that "this is an administrative body that has absolutely no powers—executive, legislative or judicial."

He noted that all it did was to provide the administrative structure for elections, but that all decisions had to be unanimous, and that therefore either the Saigon, the Vietcong or the neutral elements could prevent it from acting.

Mr. Agnew said that the willingness of North Vietnam to agree to a settlement short of an imposed coalition government and to allow a cease-fire as the first step were concessions made by Hanoi. He said that the Americans made a concession by allowing North Vietnamese troops to remain in place while Americans were withdrawn.