

NYTimes story carries byline of Bernard Gwertzman and title, U.S. Aides Believe Hanoi Won't Insist On Pact Deadline: Feel North Vietnam Will Not Let Delay in Signing Ruin Chances of Settlement. Both stories identical; one paragraph omitted in Chronicle is inserted.

OCT 31 1972

U.S. Still Hopeful on Peace Pact

SFChronicle

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

Administration officials said yesterday they remain confident that North Vietnam would not allow the passing of its deadline for a peace signing today to set back the chances for an Indo-China settlement within the next few weeks.

Officially, the White House repeated that although a basic nine-point agreement has been reached with North Vietnam for a cease-fire and political settlement, there could be no signing until one more negotiating session is held with Hanoi to clear up some unresolved problems.

Hanoi, continuing its campaign of the last five days, again criticized the United States for not being willing to sign the agreement today, as Washington had apparently said it would try to do.

RELAXED

Despite sharp statements in Hanoi and Paris by North Vietnamese spokesmen, key administration officials here seemed relaxed about the situation.

They said privately that Hanoi had carefully avoiding making October 31 an ultimatum, and they hinted they have received some kind of assurances that North Vietnam will agree to the additional negotiating session.

These officials would not discuss the nature of any messages they have exchanged with Hanoi.

It was understood from reliable sources, however, that the White House has used several channels, including Moscow and Paris, to assure North Vietnam that it is not reneging on the nine-point agreement rather it is only seeking to take care of details and ambiguities that have arisen as the agreement was studied here and in allied capitals.

'TRENDS'

A high administration official said the "basic trends" of the current situation remain the same as outlined by Henry A. Kissinger at his news conference last Thursday.

Kissinger, President Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser and an architect of the settlement, said then that "peace is at hand" and the settlement could be achieved "within weeks or less."

Another official said the time required is between two to six weeks, depending, in part, on how strongly President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam opposes the treaty once Washington and Hanoi agree on final details.

The administration, however, remains sensitive to

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criticism that Kissinger had raised hopes of an imminent settlement but that nothing seemed to have happened since last Thursday. But a key official said there should be "no hysteria" over the situation.

He said that Hanoi, having made public the nine-point plan last Thursday, is seeking to gain maximum propaganda advantage by accusing President Nixon of bad faith in not signing the accord today.

Kissinger has said that when on October 8 Hanoi offered its proposals providing the basis for the eventual nine-point draft agreement it demanded that the whole package be settled by the end of the month.

EFFORT

He said the U.S. made "a major effort" to comply, but found, in the end, that six or seven issues remained unsettled. He said that on October 22, Mr. Nixon told Premier Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam, in a message, that the U.S. wanted an additional negotiating session which would make the October 31 deadline impossible to reach.

Analysts here believe that

Hanoi was insisting on the October 31 deadline to insure that Mr. Nixon settled before the November 7 election, on the presumption that he would be easier to deal with before rather than after the election.

Among the problems cited by Kissinger as requiring the additional meeting, were the right of South Vietnam to sign the treaty along with Hanoi and Washington; strengthening the peace-keeping supervision machinery to avoid last-minute clashes by the Viet Cong and South Vietnam over disputed territory; "linguistic" matters to make sure there are no disagreements between the English and Vietnamese texts on some questions, and clarification of some points raised by Dong in an interview that suggested that Hanoi wanted Thieu to resign—something not mentioned in the draft agreement.

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A key official said that probably the first public sign of a breakthrough would occur when Hanoi made some kind of statement indicating that it

had dropped its Oct. 31 deadline, or announced that Le Duc Tho, the Hanoi Politburo member charged with peace negotiations, had left Hanoi for Paris—normally a three-day trip, via Peking and Moscow.

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Administration officials drew some encouragement from statements coming from Moscow and Peking in recent days. Even though both countries have been North Vietnam's chief suppliers, they have apparently decided to avoid getting involved in the signing deadline controversy.

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