

China Insists U.S. Meet Hanoi Date

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HONG KONG, Oct. 30—China said today that the United States must sign the agreement it has negotiated with Hanoi on the date set by North Vietnam—but did not mention that Hanoi's deadline is Tuesday.

"Peace in Vietnam, longed for by the people of the world over, is being impeded and sabotaged when it is about to be realized," an article signed "Commentator" in today's Chinese Communist Party newspaper said. Although the article demanded that the United States meet Hanoi's date for signing the agreement, it directed most of its criticisms at South Vietnam.

President Thieu, not at Washington. Thieu "fundamentally opposes the agreement reached by both sides," the People's Daily commentator said in giving a brief summary of the South Vietnamese President's two-hour address to his nation last Tuesday.

Thieu's demand that any cease-fire apply to all of Indochina is "sheer effrontery," the article said. Since the Paris peace talks only involved the United States and the three Vietnamese parties, it asked, "How can Laos and Cambodia come into question?"

A major part of the Commentator article was devoted to Thieu's claim that he had not been kept informed of the Washington-Hanoi negotiations.

"In order to nullify the agreement, Nguyen Van Thieu tries hard to present himself as having been kept in the dark and to create the impression that the agreement was reached behind his back," Peking said.

"The U.S. government too is spreading the rumor that it had no time to consult the Nguyen Van Thieu government beforehand," it adds.

The Commentator refuses to accept these claims and quotes President Nixon to refute them.

On Feb. 10, the article said, Mr. Nixon said that "every proposal we have made in Paris has been joint proposal by the government of South Vietnam and the government of the United States. Every proposal that we have made has been after consultation and after receiving suggestions from the government of South Vietnam, as well as the government of the United States."

It quoted White House ad-

viser Henry Kissinger as saying during his press conference last Thursday that "the South Vietnamese were informed of the negotiations as they went along."

Peking portrays the United States as representing Saigon and North Vietnam as representing the Vietcong in the negotiations that led to the agreement. Therefore, it said, the United States "must be held responsible for the acts of the Nguyen Van Thieu government in an attempt to obstruct and wreck the agreement."

It added, "The U.S. government must keep its word and bear the responsibility for correcting the truculent and unreasonable attitude of the Nguyen Van Thieu government and sign the agreement at the scheduled time, just as (North Vietnam) has pointed out in its statement."

The Peking article, despite its demands that the United States sign the agreement, made no direct threats about the future and did not even refer to the possibility that the agreement would fall through.

However, a formal Chinese government statement warned that if the cease-fire agreement is not signed and the war drags on, the United States "will surely reap the bitter fruits of its own making." The statement was issued after the People's Daily editorial.

While sharply critical of Thieu's opposition to the agreement, the Commentator did not apply derogatory epithets to the South Vietnamese President, but referred to him simply by his name.

The article is China's first high-level comment on the Vietnam situation since Hanoi

Radio made public the U.S.-North Vietnamese draft agreement last Thursday. Peking has made no criticisms of the agreement's substance.

Its timing, coming on the eve of Hanoi's Oct. 31 deadline for signing rather than sooner after Hanoi made public its unhappiness over Washington's delay, seemed to indicate that China does not take the delay as a serious obstacle to

peace, but made its statements out of obligation to its Vietnamese allies.

The Central Committee of the National Liberation Front (Vietcong) yesterday public called for the Soviet and Chinese people "to resolutely demand that the Nixon administration sign without delay the agreement between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam."