

Nixon and McGovern Clash on Cease-Fire

President: 'A Basic Agreement'

Associated Press

Tulsa, Okla.

Reporting that basic agreement has been reached on an Indochina-wide cease-fire, President Nixon barnstormed across America's midsection yesterday asking for four more years "to complete the job . . . to build a structure of peace."

Buoyed by polls showing him far in the lead, the President plugged at every stop for election of other Republican candidates and—for the first time—predicted his coattails would help sweep in "the kind of Congress we need . . . to accomplish the goals of the new American majority."

Mr. Nixon mixed references to peace with political speechmaking as he flew from Washington to Chicago to Tulsa to Providence, R.I., in a burst of campaigning four days before election.

CHICAGO

In Chicago, he told an airport hangar rally that in negotiations with the North Vietnamese "we have already reached basic agreement on . . . a cease-fire throughout not just Vietnam but throughout all of Indochina, Cambodia and Laos."

His remarks went beyond the wording of a draft peace agreement disclosed last week. That nine-point agreement referred only to a cease-fire in South Vietnam.

Mr. Nixon's speech in Chicago was greeted by chants of "Stop the war" and handful of demonstrating and supporters.

Senator: 'A Cruel Deception'

SFChronicle
Washington Post Service

Chicago

Senator George McGovern last night accused President Nixon of engineering a "cruel political deception" on the American people by promising that peace was near in Vietnam, then rejecting the negotiated settlement.

The Democratic presidential nominee told a coast-to-coast television audience:

"We see now that when the President's most important adviser announced that peace had come, it was actually a deception designed to raise our hopes before we went to vote on Tuesday. This is blunt language and a strong accusation. I am sorry to say it, but I believe it to be true."

McGovern's half-hour paid political broadcast was a tough rebuttal to his Republican opponent who appeared on TV Thursday evening to assure voters that a "major breakthrough" toward peace had occurred, but some details must still be resolved.

CHALLENGE

McGovern directly challenged the accuracy of Mr. Nixon's progress report. The unresolved points are not simply "details" but central issues, he said.

"There has been a fatal breakdown on the central issues," McGovern asserted. "And now this chance for an agreement is gone."

McGovern accused the President of joining with South Vietnam's President

Nguyen Van Thieu in "rejecting" the terms that Mr. Nixon's foreign policy adviser Henry Kissinger had "accepted" on October 8 in his negotiations with the North Vietnamese.

These include, McGovern said, a coalition to supervise free elections, American troop withdrawal without

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mutual withdrawal by the North Vietnamese, and the date of October 31 as the deadline for signing the accord.

"Now we must draw the painful conclusion," McGovern said, "that the events of recent weeks were not a path to peace, but a detour around election day. The officials who are sworn to serve you instead have sought to mislead you for their own political gain."

"Their strategy was designed to create the illusion of peace from Thursday, October 26, when Dr. Kissinger made his announcement, until Tuesday, November 7."

Adding personal drama to his charges, the Democratic nominee told the television audience of a phone call he received Thursday night while campaigning in Michigan from Charles Stewart of Gladstone, Mich., whose son, Charles Jr., was killed in Vietnam three days ago.

"He died on the day the peace was supposed to be signed," McGovern said. "He was 19. He died on the day Mr. Nixon decided to continue fighting the war, while fighting over what he calls the 'details' of peace."

"Charles Stewart Jr. died for those 'details.' And he was not alone. This week 22 other Americans died for some of the same 'details.' For the sake of those 'details,' the bombs still fall, the guns still fire and the terrible pain goes on."

As a political gesture, the McGovern speech was the boldest stroke of his concluding presidential campaign, a step which some advisers have been urging for several days as the news reflected no sign of progress on the war settlement.

TURN

His campaign advisers regard the speech as a dramatic turn which might suddenly lift the fortunes of McGovern's underdog campaign. Beyond that, they argue, regardless of the political impact, the tough speech would greatly increase the pressure on President Nixon to accept the pending terms of settlement and end the war.

The Democratic candidate himself remarked toward the end of the speech:

"I do not honestly know whether the blunt words I have said tonight will help me or hurt me in this election. I do not really care. For almost a decade, my heart ached over the fighting and the dying in Vietnam. I cannot remember a day when I did not think of this tragedy."

McGovern raised the further question of what would happen to the unsigned peace terms after the presidential election if Mr. Nixon wins a second term.

"After four years of war, Mr. Nixon has closed the door to peace once again," McGovern said. "If he escapes his responsibility now, do you think he will end the war after the election, once he is free from the will of the American people?"