

Agnew Blasts McGovern

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said Saturday Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern is interfering with President Nixon's performance of duties by his criticism of the Vietnam peace negotiations.

Yesterday, George McGovern broke all existing records for political irresponsibility when he alleged that the President engaged in a campaign strategy to create what the senator called an "illusion of peace," Agnew said in a statement issued by his office.

"Never in our national histo-

ry has a presidential candidate so maliciously and recklessly interfered with the exercise of a President's grave constitutional responsibility to conduct foreign policy," the vice president said.

Agnew responded to a television speech Friday night in which McGovern charged that Nixon had falsely raised hopes of peace in Vietnam in order to influence the presidential elections.

"The McGovern allegation that the news of the peace settlement was politically timed and politically motivat-

ed fails when confronted with the irrefutable truth that it was Hanoi, not Washington, which first released the tentative terms of the settlement," Agnew said, "and it was Hanoi, not the President, who insisted that an agreement be rushed to completion by Oct. 31st."

Hanoi announced Oct. 26 that a war settlement had been agreed to by North Vietnam and the United States, and presidential adviser Henry Kissinger said later that day that basic accord had been reached and "peace is at hand." However, rumors of

in both countries for several days prior to the announcements.

Hanoi said the United States had set the Oct. 31 signing date, one week before the U.S.

elections, and later backed out. Kissinger denied a date had been set.

Agnew also said McGovern "tortures the truth" by contending that the peace settlement under discussion is "almost the same" as the one he has proposed.

The vice president spent Saturday at home after a week of campaign. He cancelled a television appearance today because of a strike against the Columbia Broadcasting System, but he is scheduled to wind up his campaigning tomorrow with trips to Philadelphia and Richmond, Va.