

ROGERS EXPECTS HANOI WILL ENTER FINAL TALKS SOON

Says Agreement Will Take
'More Than Days,' but
Declines Specifics
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HE REPLIES TO M'GOVERN

Secretary Thinks Remarks
by Thuy Are the 'Sort of
Signal' U.S. Seeks

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today that he had "every reason to think" that North Vietnam would agree to resume negotiations in the near future for the conclusion of an agreement to end the Indochina conflict.

But Mr. Rogers expressed caution at predicting when an agreement would be achieved. He said that it would take "more than days," and at least several weeks, before resolution of all the remaining details that he said had held up a cease-fire and political settlement.

[In Saigon, thousands of Roman Catholics of North Vietnamese, including flag-waving girls, demonstrated against the peace plan worked out by Washington and Hanoi. Page 8.]

Convinced War Near End

Secretary Rogers, appearing on the National Broadcasting Company program "Meet the Press," stressed that no matter how long it took, he was convinced—along with other Administration officials—that a settlement of the war in Indochina would be achieved.

"I am completely satisfied myself that it is near an end," he said.

Final agreement has been delayed because of American insistence that one more negotiating session, possibly three to four days in length, was needed to wrap up details of the settlement. North Vietnam, without agreeing publicly to a new session, has complained that the United States had already agreed to a nine-point draft agreement, and should have signed it by Oct. 31.

Accepts Remark as 'Signal'

Yesterday, Xuan Thuy, the head of North Vietnam's delegation at the Paris peace talks, said in an interview with The New York Times that his Government was "not creating any difficulties about a meeting." He added that it did not have "a rigid attitude" about it, as long as the United States was "serious" about a settlement.

Mr. Rogers was asked if Mr. Thuy's remark was "the sort of signal" that the United States wanted from Hanoi to indicate that another session could take place.

"Yes, it is," he replied, "and we also have been in communication with the other side in diplomatic channels, and I have every reason to think that the

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negotiations in the private channels will resume in the near future."

He added that once negotiations resumed, all "ambiguities" and other remaining problems could be cleared up by Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, in one more lengthy session.

Mr. Rogers, who has defended the Administration's foreign policies several times during the election campaign, rebuked Senator George McGovern, the Democratic nominee, for expressing strong doubts that peace was as close in Vietnam, as the Administration had said.

'Act of Desperation'

"I think that charge by Mr. McGovern was very irresponsible and I think it shows that it was an act of desperation in the final days of the campaign," Mr. Rogers charged.

"We do have an agreement that we have worked out with North Vietnam, that I am confident can be completed in the near future," he continued. "I have had meetings with several governments who are familiar with the details of the negotiations that have been conducted and I think there is a general feeling through the world that this war is coming to an end, and I think it will be in the near future."

Mr. Kissinger, who negotiated the draft agreement with Le Duc Tho, the member of the North Vietnamese Politburo in charge of the secret peace talks, said on Oct. 26 that "peace is at hand" in Indochina, and thereby gave the impression that the remaining problems could be quickly settled.

A Longer Period Indicated

Mr. Rogers, however, sought to put the final agreement in a longer time frame than that suggested by Mr. Kissinger, who had said that it could be signed "within weeks or less."

When asked, "Are we talking about days, weeks, or months?" Mr. Rogers replied, "Well, we are talking about more than days, and in terms of weeks and months, I would prefer not to say. I think it would be sev-

eral weeks. Whether it runs into more than that I am not sure. But I think it is quite possible that we will have one, as I say, in the near future, and I don't think it would be advisable to be any more precise than that."

First Substantive Replies

Mr. Rogers was the first Administration official to answer substantive questions on the negotiations since Mr. Kissinger's Oct. 26 press conference. Among other points, he conveyed the following:

¶He clarified President Nixon's recent remark to a political audience that the settlement would bring a cease-fire to all Indochina and not just to Vietnam. Mr. Rogers said that because the accord called for the withdrawal of foreign troops and supplies from Laos and Cambodia; "we expect that the cease-fire which will occur in South Vietnam will also occur in Laos and Cambodia within the same time framework. Not necessarily simultaneously, but we hope it will be simultaneously."

¶He said that President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam was not "a villain" for raising objections to some points of the projected settlement. But Mr. Rogers said the United States would make its own decisions. He added that he did not believe "a major split" would develop between Washington and Saigon.

¶The decision by the United States to rush military supplies—including aircraft borrowed from Iran, Taiwan and South Korea—to South Vietnam was done "to reassure" the South Vietnamese "that they will have the necessary supplies in the event the agreement doesn't work out" and fighting resumes. "But that doesn't suggest that we don't have confidence that the agreement will be respected," he said.

¶Asked why the Administration was so certain that "peace was on its way in Vietnam," Mr. Rogers replied that "major suppliers," such as the Soviet Union and China, agreed with the United States that the war did "not serve anyone's interest": That the people in Indochina had "come to the conclusion that military solution is not possible, that the problem should be solved by political methods," and finally that the United States and other nations would help in rehabilitation and reconstruction, providing incentives for the political solution to be worked out by the Vietnamese.

He confirmed that the United States would maintain naval units off the Vietnamese coast and aircraft in Thailand to bolster the Governments in the area. He also said that South Vietnam need not fear a takeover by the Communists because American economic aid and some military aid would continue and the South Vietnam Army was vastly larger than the Communist forces.

Administration officials said today that, so far, there had been no firm date set with North Vietnam for renewing the negotiations.

In fact, Mr. Kissinger—who accompanied President Nixon to California yesterday—told aides that he hoped to get some rest. Other Vietnam specialists were given the weekend off.