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Nixon's Reply on Peace Talks

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President Nixon spent the last few moments of his re-election campaign last night defending himself against Senator George McGovern's charge that he has deceived the American people about the prospects for a settlement in Vietnam.

In a five-minute nationwide television statement, Mr. Nixon said he has achieved a "breakthrough" in the negotiations and that both Hanoi and the United States have agreed on a cease-fire, a return of all prisoners of war, and a political settlement under which "the people of South Vietnam will determine their own future."

Mr. Nixon said there remain "some details that we are insisting still be worked out" because he wants to be certain "that this will not be a temporary peace but a peace that will last."

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But he said he is "completely confident" that he will soon reach an agreement "which will end the war in Vietnam."

"You can help achieve that goal," he told his audience. "By your votes, you can send a message to those with whom we are negotiating and to the leaders of the world that you back the President of the United States as he insists that we seek peace with honor and never peace with surrender."

Mr. Nixon's strategists have insisted that neither they nor the President are worried about McGovern's

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last-minute charges. But the President's decision to devote the bulk of his final statement last night to the peace issue suggested that he was anxious, if only as a precaution, to make sure that McGovern's complaint did not deprive him of the overwhelming triumph he seeks and anticipates today.

Mr. Nixon did not talk about any other issues in any detail last night, asserting his belief that the choices have already been vividly displayed to the vot-

ers. Quoting a statement that he had made more than two months ago, he said that "This is the clearest choice that Americans have probably had for President in this century."

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, said Mr. Nixon spent the final day of the campaign in staff meetings with Henry A. Kissinger, his national security adviser, and John D. Ehrlichman, his chief adviser on domestic affairs.

His mood was described by his press spokesman as "calm and positive."