

## Doctors' Trip to Hanoi Reported Put Off

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—Secretary of State William P. Rogers reportedly urged Senator Edward M. Kennedy today not to send a team of five prominent United States physicians to North Vietnam "at this time."

Senator Kennedy reportedly pledged that if the team went it would involve itself solely in humanitarian and not in "political" matters. He is said to have promised Mr. Rogers that any information gathered concerning the condition of United States prisoners would be immediately furnished the State Department.

Mr. Kennedy is also said to have argued that the Administration should encourage — not discourage — a bipartisan approach in Congress to the past future task of binding up Indochina's wounds.

Nonetheless, according to Congressional sources, Mr. Kennedy agreed to defer sending his medical group until Mr. Rogers had conferred further with other key Administration officials. The two men are expected to communicate again tomorrow.

Mr. Rogers was authoritatively reported to have warned the Massachusetts Democrat that the planned visit — in response to an invitation from the Hanoi Government on Aug. 22 — would complicate delicate cease-fire negotiations. The two men met alone for a half hour at noon in Mr. Rogers's office.

Mr. Kennedy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on refugees, was reported last Sunday to have accepted the invitation and recruited the doctors, although he was not going himself.

It was reported that Mr. Ken-

nedey intended to dispatch the medical group the day after the elections. However, the State Department then issued a statement warning that "it would be unwise and inappropriate for any such group to undertake such a mission at this time."

### Doctors Are Listed

The doctors who have agreed to participate in the mission are Nevin S. Scrimshaw of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Joseph English, president of the Hospital Corporation of New York; David French, a pediatric surgeon with the Boston University School of Medicine; John M. Levinson, a gynecologist and population expert from Wilmington, Del., and Michael J. Halberstam, a Washington physician and cardiologist.

Mr. Rogers is said to have stressed that the Administration would have no objection to the visit at a later unspecified date.

Sources close to Senator Kennedy said later that there were indications that the White House had privately indicated less vigorous objections to the visit than had Mr. Rogers.

State Department officials conceded that there was no way in which the department could legally block the departure of the team other than by persuasion.

Mr. Kennedy was reported to

have insisted to Secretary Rogers that the team's planned visit to North Vietnam—as well as eventually to South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia—would be apolitical and humanitarian. He is understood to have stressed that the team's departure had already been delayed until after the elections to avoid enmeshing it in politics.

He is also said to have asked why the visit of a group of doctors investigating Indochina's health and relief needs would be more embarrassing to the Administration now than in one or two or three weeks.

State Department officials pointed out later that the team would be the first group officially invited to North Vietnam representing the United States Congress—an arm of Government.

By contrast, these officials said, American peace activist groups and individuals as well as journalists who have been visiting North Vietnam in recent months have done so unofficially and with their own funds.

Currently, for instance, a group of seven American peace activists are visiting Hanoi. They include Tom Hayden, the radical activist; Fred Branfman, former aid official in Laos and author of the "Air War Over Laos" and Prof. Howard Zinn of Boston University. Others are the Rev. David Hunter, deputy secretary general of the National Council of Churches; Susan Miller director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship; Caroline Mugar of the Indochina Peace Campaign and John Austin of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice.

The group entered North Vietnam last Saturday and is due to depart this Saturday.