

# Nixon Said to Weigh Steps To Put Pressure on Hanoi

DEC 18 1972

## Aides Report Military and Diplomatic Measures Are Studied—Kissinger's Briefing Is Called First Move

NYTimes

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

DEC 18 1972

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—President Nixon is considering a number of diplomatic and military measures designed to put pressure on North Vietnam to reach an early cease-fire agreement, well-placed Administration officials declared today.

The officials said that Henry A. Kissinger's news conference yesterday, at which he said that negotiations with Hanoi had failed to reach "a just and fair agreement," was the first move in the campaign.

### Remining of Ports Weighed

Other steps under consideration, they disclosed include the following:

Private diplomatic efforts to have the Soviet Union, China and other nations try to use their influence to get the negotiations "back on track."

A sudden replacement by air of mines in Haiphong Harbor and other North Vietnamese ports above the 20th Parallel. In some of these, officials said, North Vietnamese has begun minesweeping without hindrance from the United States.

And, if other measures fail,

a resumption of some bombing of military targets north of the 20th Parallel. The United States stopped such bombing in late October as a sign of goodwill, in reaction to Hanoi's conciliatory approach to peace negotiations, starting on Oct. 8. Administration officials say that a resumption of bombing north of the 20th Parallel is the least likely step to be chosen because of the danger of scuttling the peace talks.

Even so, it is not clear whether the military plans are actually meant to be carried out or whether at this point they are designed to serve as a threat in the diplomatic process.

Much of the current Washington planning is predicated on

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

### Questions on Vietnam

Henry A. Kissinger's announcement that the Vietnam peace talks had failed to reach "a just and fair agreement" has raised many unanswered questions. An article attempting to answer some appears on Page 3.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

the conclusion that it is Hanoi's shifting negotiating tactics that are primarily responsible for the continuing delay in reaching agreement. According to this view, United States military and diplomatic pressure must be concentrated on Hanoi if progress is to be made.

But earlier, high Administration officials had indicated that the talks were bogged down over failure of the negotiators to satisfy President Nguyen Van Thieu's requirements for a satisfactory cease-fire.

Washington officials said that a major stumbling block was President Thieu's insistence that any cease-fire agreement state unequivocally that the Saigon Government has the sole sovereign right to control all the territory it held before the Vietnam war began. Administration officials said that this issue, which had been introduced by the United States, was holding up progress and that a resolution of this issue was up to President Nixon and President Thieu.

But according to United States officials interviewed in the last few days, it was North Vietnam that apparently decided to renege on certain already settled issues and proposed new ones. The North Vietnamese were said to have been acting in the belief that the Nixon Administration was under so much pressure because of its own previously optimistic statements that "peace was within reach," that it might feel impelled to accept less than adequate terms to achieve an early truce.

\* Agence France Presse, datelined Hanoi 19 Dec 72, quotes from statement by Foreign Ministry, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which says that the bombing began at "7:15 p.m. on Dec. 18." Corresponding Washington time would be 7:15 a.m., Dec. 18.

Agence France-Presse, Washington Post,  
20 Dec 72.