

Democratic Senators Call For War End

Nixon Warns Critics May Prolong Talks

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Nixon administration charged yesterday that the new surge of Democratic demands in Congress for a quick end to the Vietnam war may only result in "possibly prolonging the negotiations."

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler issued the new warning for the President. The administration repeatedly has used almost identical language for years to fend off its critics in Congress. This time the congressional pressure is rising toward a new peak, with impatience zeroing in on President Nixon's second inaugural on Jan. 20.

"We are not going to set up an artificial timetable," nevertheless, Ziegler told newsmen; "we didn't do it in the elections and we won't now." With talks due to resume in Paris on Monday, he said, "the President must proceed with negotiations and the policy he considers to be the right policy."

Ziegler, reading from notes, repeated more than a half dozen times, with slight variations, that "in such a sensitive stage of negotiations, members of Congress should ask themselves if they want to take the responsibility of raising doubts in the minds of the North Vietnamese about the U.S. position and thereby possibly prolonging the negotiations."

"Our objective is to achieve a negotiated settlement," the spokesman reiterated. "There can only be one negotiator."

As the Vietnam dispute rebounded domestically, North Vietnam announced that its chief negotiator, Le Duc Tho, was on his way back to Paris to meet on Jan. 8 with presidential adviser Henry A. Kis-

singer. Hanoi's statement on Tho's departure was couched in firm but relatively moderate language in view of the intensive American bombing of North Vietnam since talks were broken off on Dec. 13. But North Vietnam said the responsibility for "peace" or continued war "depends totally on the U.S. side."

For the first time since the Kissinger-Tho negotiations hit an impasse last month in Paris, North Vietnam said that "as of 13 December 1972, only a few problems remained."

That language comes close to Kissinger's press conference on Dec. 16 that "we have an agreement that is 99 per cent completed as far as the text of the agreement is concerned." The United States and North Vietnam, however, the Hanoi statement again showed, remain in fundamental disagreement about which side thwarted an agreement.

The North Vietnamese statement yesterday reiterated that "the U.S. side demanded the modification of many articles related to the principles and nature of the agreed-on ac-

See TALKS, A12, Col. 1

TALKS, From A1
cord" negotiated in October.

Hanoi's message in its comment yesterday was clear: the United States must roll back from the demands it made in the deadlocked round of talks that followed, from Nov. 20 to Dec. 13, if there is to be an agreement.

There is widespread speculation, but no firm official confirmation, that the Nixon administration is now prepared to trim back some of the demands it made at that time, with President Nixon in a stronger position to make diplomatic concessions since the extraordinary display of force against North Vietnam in the 12 days of American bombing between Dec. 18 and Dec. 29. But the key question continues to be whether demands on both sides, however modified, can produce the required compromise for an agreement.

North Vietnam indicated yesterday that it may be prepared to consider what it calls that "extremely serious war

escalation (bombing) step" against it, and the "punishment" it delivered against the attacking U.S.

bombers, as a kind of standoff, under one condition. That is, that the United States recognizes that it cannot engage in "negotiating from a position of strength" in order to alter the basic terms of the proposed October cease-fire agreement.

Hanoi's statement said that "the U.S. side has now been compelled to stop the bombing and mining of North Vietnam from the 20th Parallel northward and to reduce the bombardment from the 20th Parallel southward, as it pledged previously, and to return to the situation that prevailed before 18 December."

Defense Department officials said there has been no halt to the "mining" of North Vietnam, except for the fact that the re-seeding of mines last took place on Dec. 17 but the mining remains effective. These officials said they know of no agreement "to reduce" the bombing of North Vietnam below the 20th Parallel.

In Washington and in Paris intensive preparations were continuing for the next phase of the Kissinger-Tho negotiations.

President Nixon met twice yesterday with Kissinger, for their third meeting in two days, the White House press office reported, but nothing was disclosed about their discussions.

United States and North Vietnamese negotiators working at the technical level to prepare for the next Kissinger-Tho talks, met again in Paris yesterday in an unusually long seven-hour secret session.

The technical experts are scheduled to meet again today. In addition, the formal, four-sided Paris peace conference, which includes the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Vietcong representatives, is due to hold a regular meeting today. North Vietnam and the Vietcong walked out of the Dec. 21 session, in protest over the resumption of the all-out bombing of North Vietnam.

Le Duc Tho, in his customary pattern, stopped off in Peking yesterday to confer with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and is also expected to stop in Moscow on his way to Paris.

France, Americans Aid Hanoi Hospitals

From News Dispatches

Donations from the French government and American individuals will be used to re-

build two North Vietnamese hospitals which were hit during the recent U.S. bombing of Hanoi, it was announced yesterday in Paris.

A French donation of \$400,000 will be made available "immediately" to modernize re-equip the St. Paul Hospital in Hanoi, a government spokesman announced after the weekly Cabinet meeting. French doctors are still working at the hospital.

An American donation of \$250,000, raised by the U.S. Medical Aid Committee for Indochina, is intended to be used in the reconstruction of Bach Mai Hospital, the Rev. Daniel Berrigan told the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks.

Berrigan, who is active in the American anti-war movement, told newsmen in Paris he was "profoundly skeptical" about the impending resumption of secret peace talks between White House adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho.

In another Paris news conference, Dr. Yvonne Capedeville, a French woman doctor who worked in Hanoi's Bach Mai Hospital during the recent U.S. bombing raids, denied yesterday that damage to the hospital was only slight.