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President Is Cautious On Talks

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President Nixon told House and Senate leaders yesterday that he was hopeful of getting a negotiated settlement to the Vietnam war. "But he cautioned about being too optimistic," said Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah).

The President said it would become apparent next week whether the North Vietnamese were willing to negotiate seriously or fall back into a "stalling pattern," according to congressmen who attended the meeting.

The congressional leaders met with President Nixon at the White House for a 90-minute breakfast session to discuss domestic economic affairs. But President Nixon took the last 10 minutes to give them a dundown on the peace negotiations.

"I cannot tell you the prospects are optimistic or pessimistic," the President said, according to White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

The President could only say that, in his view, if both sides negotiated seriously "we can achieve an agreement with the North Vietnamese which will give us a chance to end the war in an honorable way," Ziegler said.

Such a peace, in the President's view, would entail the return of prisoners, an accounting of all those missing in action and a cease-fire which would allow "all parties in South Vietnam to determine their own political future," Ziegler said.

President Nixon concluded his remarks by saying that he recognized there were those in

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Congress who disagreed with his policy, but that it was the President's responsibility to seek the "right kind" of settlement, Ziegler said.

In the course of his review, President Nixon said that in December negotiations had broken down, and bombing above the 20th parallel resumed because of North Vietnamese stalling tactics, according to Ziegler.

On Dec. 29, there were "extended exchanges" with the North Vietnamese which led to a new bombing halt above the 20th parallel and the resumption of negotiations, Ziegler said.

Although President Nixon did not say it in so many words, the implication was that if the North Vietnamese were not ready to negotiate he would bomb them again," said Sen. Moss. "He did not express any feeling of wrong doing or that the bombing had been a mistake. He thought the bombing was the proper way to bring them back to the negotiating table," Moss said.

A Republican senator, who did not wish to be identified, said that there was very little new in the President's briefing. "The President said he didn't want to go into details because of the delicate nature of negotiations."

The crucial issues in the President's view, the GOP senator said, were the supervision of a cease-fire, the release of prisoners and the opportunity for some workable process for the people of the South to determine their own system."

The President's sober remarks and lack of optimism contrasted sharply with the administration's exuberance over the prospects of peace in October, congressmen noted. The briefing ended the White House meeting and there were no questions on the President's remarks.

Henry Kissinger will meet with the President at Camp David today for "an extended session" prior to Kissinger's departure for Paris on Sunday at 10 a.m. Ziegler announced.

Yesterday afternoon at the White House Kissinger met for over an hour with two envoys of President Nguyen Van Thieu, former foreign minister Tran Van Do and former ambassador to the United States Bui Diem. The two South Vietnamese envoys are scheduled to meet with State Department officials on Monday and are expected to talk with congressional leaders as well in an attempt to explain South Vietnam's position at the Paris talks.

U.S., Hanoi Experts Meet 4th Straight Day

PARIS, Jan. 5 (AP)—U.S. and North Vietnamese experts working on annexes to a proposed cease-fire agreement

met today for the fourth straight day.

William Sullivan, deputy assistant secretary of state for Southeast Asian affairs, and Nguyen Co Thach, a deputy foreign minister, headed the two delegations.

The experts are working on detailed points that could be part of an agreement. A number of questions of principle still need to be settled, however, in top-level talks between Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's peace negotiator, and Le Duc Tho, a member of the Hanoi Politburo.

Kissinger and Tho plan to resume their meetings Monday.

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... President Nixon told congressional leaders on Friday that the reason he had halted the bombing north of the 20th parallel was because "extended exchanges" with Hanoi on Dec 29 had led him to believe that the North Vietnamese were ready for "serious negotiations."