

'Peace at Hand'?

Kissinger Lied, McGovern Says

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. George McGovern says he thinks presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger lied when he told the nation on Oct. 26 that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam, the Boston Globe reported today.

The newspaper said the 1972 Democratic presidential nominee made the assertion Thursday at a luncheon with Globe editors. McGovern was in Boston with his wife to accompany their daughter, Mary, to an interview at Radcliffe College, where she has applied for admission next fall.

Earlier Thursday McGovern met with some 300 campaign workers at a downtown hotel and drew cheers when he told them, "Needless to say, Massachusetts is first in my heart." McGovern carried only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia in the November election.

McGovern told the Globe editors that Kissinger's "peace is at hand" was a final factor in his defeat 12 days later.

"Of course I don't know," he said, "but I can only tell you that when Kissinger told the country on Oct. 26 that peace was at hand and only a few small details remained, I

think he was lying.

"I think that he knew that the President and Gen. Thieu (South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu) were not about to accept the agreement which he had tentatively reached with Hanoi."

McGovern briefly sketched the sequence of events: how the pace of the Paris negotiations seemed to quicken in the final weeks of the campaign with rumors spreading that a settlement had been reached; then Hanoi's release of a text of the agreements and Kissinger's news conference.

"I think he was told by the President to go out there and say it after Hanoi blew the whistle," McGovern said.

Kissinger "did not deny," he said, "that the text (released by Hanoi) was essentially what they had agreed on. Where I think he became dishonest was in telling the American people that there was nothing of any consequence yet to negotiate, when he knew that major objections had been raised by Saigon and the White House."