

ACCORD TO END WAR REACHED;
CEASE-FIRE TO BEGIN SATURDAY

Release of POWs, Full U.S. Pullout Set Within 60 Days

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon announced last night in a television address to the American people that a cease-fire agreement will go into effect in Vietnam at 7 p.m. Saturday, ending American participation in the longest war in its history.

Within 60 days all American prisoners of war held in Indochina will be released and all American forces will be withdrawn, he said.

The people of South Vietnam are guaranteed the right to determine their future, he said, emphasizing that the agreement initiated in Paris yesterday and to be signed there Saturday has the full support of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu.

The President said the agreement negotiated by national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho will bring an end to the war and "bring peace with honor to Vietnam and Southeast Asia."

He said the text of the agreement would be made public today.

Calling for a "peace of reconciliation," Mr. Nixon also asked the other major powers to exercise mutual restraint so that peace can come to the people of Southeast Asia.

The President thanked the American people for supporting him in striving for a "peace with honor" that will endure, and he paid special tribute to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who died Monday.

The former President was vilified as a man of war yet he was "a great American" who wanted nothing more than peace," Mr. Nixon declared.

He also paid tribute to the wives and relatives of American prisoners of war and men missing in action, saying that they had steadfastly supported him in his efforts for a peace that will last.

He pledged to the South Vietnamese people continued aid and support in their struggle to rebuild their country and to choose their own government.

Before the 10 p.m. address, timed for a simultaneous announcement by the North Vietnamese in Paris, the President briefed his Cabinet and then met with congressional leaders to explain the major points to them.

Earlier, the President conferred with Kissinger following his return from Paris and with Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., formerly deputy to Kissinger and now the Army vice chief of staff.

In preparation for the cease-fire, the United States yesterday alerted four nations that will supervise the cease-fire to place their troops on a three-day alert.

The four nations—Indonesia, Canada, Hungary and Poland—had been on a seven-day alert since the resumption of the Kissinger-Tho talks on Jan. 8. Some 3,000 troops from those countries are to have freedom of movement in South Vietnam to see that the accords are carried out.

In addition to sending Secretary of State William P. Rogers to Paris for the Saturday signing ceremony, the President is reported to have decided to send Vice President Agnew to Saigon to meet with President Nguyen Van Thieu and other officials there on future relations with Washington.

Attending last night's meeting at the White House, in

addition to the Cabinet, were Vice President Agnew, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.), Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott (Pa.), House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.), House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford (Mich.) and House Democratic Leader Thomas P. O'Neill (Mass.)

A meeting with additional congressional leaders will be held at the White House this morning.

See **PRESIDENT, A8, Col. 1**

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Last night's announcement heralded the end of this country's longest war in its history and also the end of its most protracted peace negotiations.

The first meeting between the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong took place in Paris almost exactly four years ago—on Jan. 26, 1969, six days after Mr. Nixon's first inauguration.

President Johnson initiated the move toward negotiations on March 31, 1968, when he halted the bombing north of the 20th parallel in North Vietnam and announced that he would not be a candidate for reelection.

In late October 1968, Mr. Johnson announced initial agreement on plans for negotiations, which he hoped would end the war before his term expired on Jan. 20, 1969.

But opposition in Saigon and delays in Hanoi made it impossible to agree on procedures until after the New Year.

When the formal negotiations made no headway, President Nixon sent Kissinger to Paris in the summer of 1969 for the first of a dozen secret meetings with Tho.

But those meetings also dragged on intermittently for three years without much progress. Finally, last September there was a breakthrough and Kissinger announced on Oct. 26 that peace was "at hand."

He said only one more negotiating session lasting a few days would be required to complete the agreement. But again there was disappointment after his return to Paris.

In December, the President called off the talks because, Kissinger said, the North Vietnamese were not bargaining seriously. Mr. Nixon then initiated the intensive bombing attacks of the North Vietnamese heartland, which continued for 12 days and were finally halted on Dec. 29 when the two sides agreed to meet again.

Kissinger and Tho bargained from Jan. 8 to Jan. 13 in lengthy sessions that paved the way for yesterday's final notice.