

THE WAR IN VIETNAM IS ENDED --
CEASE-FIRE IS SET FOR SATURDAY

Nixon Reports All U.S. Troops, POWs Will Be Out Within 60 Days

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Washington

President Nixon announced last night that "We have today concluded an agreement to end the war and bring peace with honor to Vietnam and South-east Asia."

A cease-fire, which will be internationally supervised, will begin at 7 p.m., Washington time, Saturday, the President said in a television address.

Within 60 days from Saturday all Americans held as prisoners in Indochina will be released and there will be the "fullest possible accounting" of missing in action, the President said.

In the same 60-day period, all American forces will be withdrawn from South Vietnam. There are fewer than 25,000 Americans in Vietnam today.

The full text of the agreement and the protocols that took almost four years to negotiate will be made public today, the President said in his ten-minute speech from the White House.

Cease-fire

In his brief description of the accord, Mr. Nixon said that the cease-fire would be "internationally supervised," a reference to the projected force of Canadians, Hungarians, Indonesians and Poles who will supervise the truce. But he did not say how large the force would be. The U.S. has wanted a highly mobile force numbering about 5000. The North Vietnamese have suggested substantially less.

Mr. Nixon also said nothing about the controversial problem of the demilitarized zone dividing the two Vietnams. Saigon has wanted this line reaffirmed to make sure that legally there are two Vietnams, and Hanoi had resisted this. All he said on the subject was that the people of South Vietnam "have been guaranteed the right to determine their own future without outside interference."

Mr. Nixon said President Nguyen Van Thieu fully supports the agreement and he promised continuing support to the South Vietnamese people in their struggle to rebuild their country and to determine their future.

Restraint

To the North Vietnamese government, the President appealed for "a peace of reconciliation." At the same time, he warned that the agreement must be "scrupulously" adhered to by both sides and that just as "reciprocity" was required to end the year, so it will be needed "to build and strengthen the peace."

In a cautionary word directed to China and the Soviet Union, the President said that "now is the

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time for mutual restraint, so that the peace we have achieved can be kept."

He said nothing about the help he may have received from either Peking or Moscow in negotiating the accord that has ended the longest war in American history.

The President paid special tribute to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who died in Texas on Monday. He endured "the vilification of those who sought to portray him as a man of war," Mr. Nixon said, yet there was nothing he wanted more than "a lasting peace in the world."

Calling his predecessor "a great American," Mr. Nixon said, "No one would have welcomed this peace more than he.

"And I know he would join me in asking — for those who died, and for those who live — let us consecrate this moment by resolving together to make the peace we have achieved a peace that will last."

PRISONERS

The President also paid tribute to the wives and families of prisoners of war, calling them "some of the bravest people I have ever met."

While some people demanded that he settle "on any terms," the families of POWs and the men missing in action "had the courage to stand for the right kind of peace," he said.

"Nothing means more to me now than the fact that your long vigil is coming to an end," the President said. He gave no details of the procedures to govern return of prisoners, but some POWs are expected to be released next week.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers will go to Paris to sign the agreement Saturday. It was initialed in Paris yesterday by national secu-

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rity adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Duc Tho.

The President was not clear whether the cease-fire extends only to South Vietnam or also to Laos and Cambodia, but he implied that it did when he said the agreement will bring peace to all of Southeast Asia.

He justified the long route he took to the peace agreement by saying that the conditions he laid down in his addresses last year of January 25 and May 8 "have all been met."

He listed them as the cease-fire, release of POWs, withdrawal of American forces and the right of South Vietnam to determine its own future.

There were many questions unanswered by the President's brief address, but many of them will be answered when the lengthy agreement and protocols are made public today.

Responding to critics who have said he should have explained his actions earlier, Mr. Nixon said that, while negotiations were at a sensitive stage, he might have destroyed the chances of peace if he had spoken.

TALK

"The important thing was not to talk about peace," he said, "but to get peace—and to get the right kind of peace. This we have done.

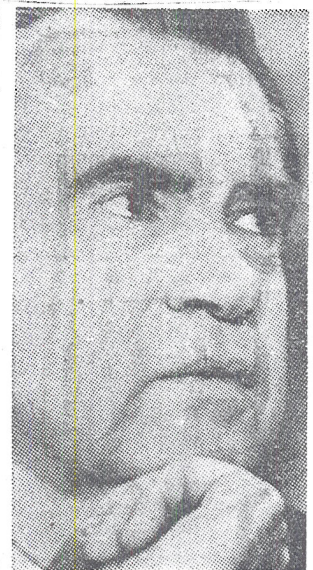
"We have achieved an honorable agreement," he added. A peace that did not betray "our allies" and that did not abandon POWs.

Moreover, he emphasized, he did not accept an agreement that "would have ended the war for us but would have continued the war for the 50 million people of Indochina."

BRIEFING

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

Earlier, he conferred with Kissinger after his return from Paris and with General Alexander M. Haig Jr., formerly deputy to Kissinger and now the Army's vice chief of staff.



AP Wirephoto

PRESIDENT NIXON
'A peace with honor'