

Kissinger to Visit Hanoi and Thieu to Meet Nixon About Postwar Projects

NEWS TALK IS HELD

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President Also Tells of Plans to Give Aid to All of Indochina

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—

President Nixon announced today that he would send Henry A. Kissinger to Hanoi on Feb. 10 for three days in an effort to make the peace in Vietnam more secure and lay the groundwork for reconstruction of Southeast Asia.

In a news conference, his first since Oct. 5, Mr. Nixon

Transcript of news conference will be found on Page 20.

also announced his own plan to confer with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam in San Clemente, Calif., sometime in the spring.

Speaking in the White House briefing room, Mr. Nixon said that while the agreement signed in Paris last Saturday was intended to bring a long peace in Indochina, the warring parties would also need "incentives to peace" to make sure it lasted. In this regard, the President said he would try to persuade Congress to agree to a "reconstruction program for all of Indochina."

Would Turn to Peace

If the North Vietnamese participate with the United States and other interested countries in the reconstruction of North Vietnam, Mr. Nixon said, "they will have a tendency to turn inward to the works of peace rather than turning outward to the works of war." [Question 1, Page 20.]

Mr. Nixon also made the following points on Vietnam and foreign policy:

¶He is still opposed to amnesty for those who refused to serve in the military during the Vietnam war, stressing the need for criminal penalties instead. [Question 3.]

¶Mr. Kissinger's trip to Hanoi is not related to the release of

the first American prisoners by North Vietnam, which will take place at about the same time. Nor will Mr. Nixon fly to the West Coast or other points to greet the prisoners. "This is a time we should not grandstand it, we should not exploit it," Mr. Nixon said. "They have a right to have privacy, they have a right to be home with their families just as quickly as they possibly can." [Question 2.]

¶Mr. Nixon will make no

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trips outside the United States in the first half of this year, but problems of Western Europe will be moved to the "front burner" in American policy. The United States wants to avoid "economic confrontations that could lead to bitterness" and there is no reason to fear the new Europe "if we talk to them and consult at this time." [Question 6.]

¶Two American flyers being held prisoner in China are expected to be released on the initiative of Peking as part of the release of prisoners in Vietnam. There is no assurance that a Central Intelligence agent, James T. Downey, also held in China, will be released soon, but the United States is taking diplomatic initiatives for his release. [Questions 14 and 15.]

First Since Re-Election

Today was the first time since his landslide re-election last November that Mr. Nixon had submitted to questions in a public forum about his conduct of the government. The conference was announced only a few moments before his 11:30 A.M. appearance in the White House briefing room.

Wearing a blue suit and blue tie with small white polka dots, and his face tanned from long weekends in Florida, the President opened the conference immediately to question. It ended 30 minutes later, with many aspects of Presidential actions in foreign and domestic matters unexplored.

The announcement that Mr. Kissinger would be going to Hanoi for discussions with Government leaders was made under joint agreement of the two countries involved. Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon said, will discuss "the current status of compliance with the peace agreement" and "the reconstruction program for all of Indochina." [Question 1.]

Notes a Role for Congress

The future of such recon-

struction is uncertain, Mr. Nixon said, and there will have to be "Congressional consultation and Congressional support."

"Many Congressmen and Senators and many of the American people are not keen on helping any of the countries in that area, just as they are not

keen on foreign aid in general," Mr. Nixon said. "As far as I am concerned, whether it is with the North or the South or the other countries in the area, I look upon this as a potential investment."

He will know more about what initiatives to take for reconstruction after Mr. Kissinger's talks, which will be "quite extensive and very frank," the President said. For this reason, he said, he does not have a dollar figure for American reconstruction efforts.

Gaining congressional support, he added, "is going to be one of the more difficult assignments I have had as President, but I think we can make it if the Congress sees what the stakes are."

Promises of economic aid for rebuilding the war-torn coun-

tries of Southeast Asia go back to 1965, when President Johnson, speaking at Johns Hopkins University, said the Mekong River could be developed "on a scale to dwarf our own Tennessee Valley Authority."

Mr. Nixon in the last year has said the United States and other countries might spend as much as \$7.5-billion over five years for all of Indochina with North Vietnam receiving as much as \$2.5-billion.

Recently administration officials have said \$7.5-billion was still "the ball-park figure," but it was not known how much of that amount the United States would provide.

The amount of money, Mr. Nixon said today, "is a matter that has to be negotiated and must be all part of one pattern."