

Pompidou's Message on Viet Peace

Washington

French President Georges Pompidou, who openly criticized the intensive U.S. bombing of North Vietnam last December, has joined a number of heads of state in congratulating President Nixon on the Vietnam peace agreement.

White House sources said yesterday that 41 heads of state have sent Mr. Nixon good wishes since the signing of the agreement in Paris on January 27, representing 40 per cent of the 100 nations having diplomatic relations with the U.S.

"Sincere congratulations for the agreement that has been concluded in Paris," Pompidou's message said in part.

White House officials were obviously pleased with the congratulatory messages coming from the foreign leaders as well as those from state legislatures, counties, cities and several hundred ordinary Americans.

The message from Pompidou was particularly welcomed because U.S. officials felt privately that France was inclined to lean towards the North Vietnamese.

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