

'Sino-Soviet Role in Viet Peace'

Washington

Moscow and Peking played mediating roles in helping Washington reach the 1973 Vietnam settlement with Hanoi, according to an article in current issue of Foreign Policy magazine.

The article, written by former New York Times correspondent Tad Szulc, depicts Moscow's mediating role as crucial. It says that Henry Kissinger, during his secret journey to Moscow in April, 1972, used Soviet leaders to convey to Hanoi "a concession of enormous magnitude" — that Hanoi would not be called upon to withdraw its forces from South Vietnam as part of an over-all settlement. The final peace agreement makes no specific reference to North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam.

During President Nixon's visit to Moscow in May,

1972, Szulc wrote, Soviet leaders told him that they did not like American policies in Vietnam but said in effect that there was nothing they could do about the situation.

Again, Kissinger, who was then the President's national security adviser, transmitted an American compromise to Hanoi through the Russians — one proposing formation of a commission of Viet Cong, Saigon and neutralist elements to supervise eventual elections.

In June, according to Szulc, Kissinger flew secretly to Peking and presented the American position to Premier Chou En-lai. The premier answered that he would not press Hanoi one way or another on a settlement. But the next month, the article says, there were indications that Chairman

Libyan Attack

On Egypt Post

Cairo

A group of Libyan soldiers attacked an Egyptian military post Sunday at Sollum near the border between the two Arab nations, the newspaper Al Akhbar reported.

Associated Press

Mao Tse-tung had told the French foreign minister that he had advised Viet Cong leaders to soften their demand for South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu's resignation as the price of a settlement.

Citing secret documents and details of conversations,

Szulc also makes the following statements:

- Secret peace proposals by the United States were more conciliatory than the public proposals. Specifically, Kissinger hinted to the North Vietnamese privately in Paris as early as May, 1971, that the United States would not demand that a settlement specifically call for withdrawal of Hanoi's forces in South Vietnam. At this time, Mr. Nixon was publicly demanding "mutual withdrawals."

- Kissinger was concerned that Mr. Nixon might revert to a hard line on a Vietnam settlement after the presidential elections and told his aides that he wanted to "lock him irrevocably into a decision" before the 1972 election.

- The United States made commitments to Hanoi as part of the Paris settlement that were secret and have

not been carried out. The two cited by Szulc were a promise to withdraw all American civilians supporting South Vietnamese forces and a specific pledge of reconstruction funds of north Vietnam.

The State Department denied yesterday that the United States had made secret commitments to North Vietnam as part of the Vietnam settlement.

(Department spokesman Robert Anderson said: "We didn't make any secret agreements. There are no secret understandings in the sense of secret commitments." He added: "But there are statements on both sides of intentions. None involve added obligations on the part of the United States, but some interpreted formal agreements, that is, put these agreements into specific time frames.")

New York Times