

CONGRESS GROUP DEBATES IN SAIGON WITH COMMUNISTS

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Delegates Have a Heated
Encounter With Hanoi
and Vietcong Aides

KISSINGER ROLE URGED

On Ending Tour, Team of 8
Reports Rough Consensus
on New Peace Effort.

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 2—A fact-finding delegation of eight members of the United States Congress left for home tonight after a heated, theatrical encounter this morning with representatives of North Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The delegation, which visited South Vietnam and Cambodia at President Ford's request to determine if the Saigon and Phnom Penh governments required additional military aid, contained three identifiable hawks, one outspoken dove and four others whose positions were somewhere between.

Most professed to have not quite made up their minds on the Ford Administration's request for \$522-million in extra military aid. But several said that the group had at least reached a rough consensus that it was imperative for Secretary of State Kissinger to involve the United States again in a search for negotiated settlements to the Vietnamese and Cambodian wars.

Meeting with Communists

Senator Dewey F. Bartlett, Republican of Oklahoma, said at Tan Son Nhut air base just before the party left for Washington:

"It would be my guess that we would want Secretary Kissinger to play a very big role, to play it right away with Russia and China, in an effort to encourage them to use their influence on the North Vietnamese to reduce the level of war and to reduce military support to the North Vietnamese as we would reduce it to the South Vietnamese."

This morning, seven of the eight Congress members met with North Vietnamese and Vietcong officers, who are lodged at Tan Son Nhut on moribund negotiating teams, to discuss the emotionally charged question of American personnel missing in action in Indochina.

Representative John P. Murtha, Democrat of Pennsylvania, who was twice wounded as a marine colonel here, absented himself from the unusual meeting, a colleague said, because he feared his lingering "hatred" for the Vietnamese Communists might flare.

Bracelet Displayed

As it was, several members, formal and stony-faced before a crush of television cameras, accused the Communists of lying, indulging in propaganda and being insincere about the search for the 929 Americans listed as missing in action in Indochina and 1,163 more whose remains have not been recovered.

"We have a term in Oklahoma that covers your answer," Senator Bartlett told Lieut. Col. Nguyen Duc Bao of the North Vietnamese delegation after listening to a long lecture on American "sabotage" of the Paris peace agreements. "And it's hogwash."

Senator Bartlett dramatically removed a silver M.I.A. bracelet from his left wrist; it bore the name of an Air Force captain, Clifford Fieszal of Tulsa, Okla., who was shot down over Hai-

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phong on Sept. 30, 1968. Mr. Bartlett passed it down to the colonel.

"His wife wants to know where he is or where his remains are," the Republican told the North Vietnamese officer, who sat at the opposite end of a long table. "I go back to Oklahoma in two weeks. Now what am I going to tell Mrs. Fieszal?"

The stocky colonel, unruffled behind his tinted glasses, did not give a direct answer through his young interpreter, but returned to his history of the two-year war since the Paris accords. The Communists insist that the search for the M.I.A.'s cannot go forward until the agreements are "scrupulously and strictly implemented."

"Is it reasonable," the colonel asked at one point, "that when the United States is bringing weapons, ammunition and war materials to South Vietnam to kill the Vietnamese it is demanding to seek information about the missing in action?"

Query to Hanoi

But later, the colonel said he would forward the name of Captain Fieszal—and those of any other American "martyrs" that were furnished—to Hanoi. "Whenever information is available, we shall notify you," he said.

This prompted Representative Bella Abzug, the Manhattan Democrat, to express the hope that contacts between people, not just governments, could help answer "the pleas and cries of our constituents" on the M.I.A. question. She said this "would be an enormous step to restoring reconciliation between our two countries."

But this was a brief interlude. William V. Chappell, a conservative Florida Democrat, launched into a long emotional attack and told the North Vietnamese colonel that the colonel's unbending position had "made up my mind" to vote for the Ford Administration's pending \$300-million aid request for Saigon.

Later in the day, Representative Millicent Fenwick, Republican of New Jersey, Mrs. Abzug and Representative Donald M. Fraser, Minnesota Democrat, flew to Ham Tan, capital of Binh Tuy Province, to interview Huynh Tan Mam, a Saigon student leader who has been imprisoned since he was arrested on Jan. 6, 1972.

Mrs. Abzug said that Mr. Mam looked to be in good health though he said he had been tortured after his arrest and that he had been "threatened with punishment if he spoke to us." The 19-year-old prisoner said he had not seen members of his family since his arrest, she said.