

# VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT REACHED; U.S. CONFIRMS IT

The United States and North Vietnam announced earlier today that "basic agreements" on a nine-point peace plan have been reached. Radio Hanoi said a cease fire would take effect next Wednesday under the terms of an agreement to be signed on Tuesday. A general confirmation from Washington was made public around noon.

The United States in turn said that one more negotiating session would be needed to clear up the details and that the agreement could be signed within "a matter of weeks, or less." Henry Kissinger, who did the secret negotiating for the United States, also did the talking for the Nixon Administration. Both Kissinger and Hanoi officials agree that the accords call for an immediate cease-fire after the signing of the formal agreement. All United

States troops would be withdrawn in sixty days and all prisoners on both sides would be released within the same period.

Under the terms agreed to, North and South Vietnam would be left to work out their own political settlement under a coalition group working toward new elections. An International Control Commission would enforce the ceasefire.

National Liberation Front Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh did the talking for the Communists. She backed up the Hanoi broadcast by saying, "It is up to the United States to show good will by honoring the accords agreed upon and by signing them on the agreed day."

Under terms of the accords, which reportedly were reached as part of the overall nine-point peace plan on Oct. 8, all U.S.

troops would also be withdrawn from Laos and Cambodia as hostilities cease in Vietnam.

Kissinger noted that despite South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu's reluctance to go along with any plan to withdraw U.S. ground and air support and establish a coalition government in South Vietnam, he was confident that "in time he will accept the terms of the agreement."

Kissinger also insisted that the timing of the long-awaited peace announcement had nothing to do with the shortly-upcoming Presidential election. He indicated in his opening remarks to newsmen that the White House would not have disclosed the details of the agreements until the formal cease-fire was actually signed if Hanoi radio, in a Saigon-monitored English-language

broadcast, had not made its surprise announcement last night. The U.S. had refused comment until Kissinger called newsmen to the White House early this morning.

Radio Hanoi, in its long broadcast last night, indicated that the "treaty" provided for the formation of a coalition government of three equal parts. There was no mention of President Thieu in the broadcast. Thieu earlier this week had said that he would reject the establishment of any form of coalition government that would include Viet Cong representatives.

The broadcast also said that the U.S. has stalled in implementation of some of the provisions of the agreement, most notably the ending of the mining of North Vietnamese harbors and the ending of continued air strikes.

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editorial

### Machiavelli wins

If the war ends next week, with it will end an era from which America can never divorce itself.

If preliminary signs prove true, the peace plan to be signed next week is essentially what was laid down by the Geneva accords of 1954. Eighteen years of futility have destroyed millions of lives and scarred a national soul.

The American people have now learned that there is a thin line between right and wrong, a hazy difference between liberation and imperialism. Now the question remains: have America's leaders learned that as well?

We are not convinced.

If he has made peace with North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front, Richard Nixon has lifted some of the bloodguilt America bears.

But he has also lifted a political burden carried by the Republican Party, a week before Election Day. We do not need to point out the Machiavellian expediency of his actions. Nor do we need to argue that his actions of the past four years make any argument that he has suddenly acquired a moral sense frivolous.

By dumping Nguyen Van Thieu, to whom he has made repeated promises of support, Nixon shows again that to him principle means nothing. He has sacrificed his long-standing support of Saigon for the sake of political expediency...the day after George McGovern made a political broadcast hammering home how corrupt the Nixon regime is. What timing.

But crass politicking aside: the end of the war transcends Richard Nixon and the Republican Party, and George McGovern, too. The struggle for a new social consciousness in America must now focus inward, and must prepare to carry on without the horror of Vietnam as a here-and-now rallying point.

Peace will be a strange sensation.

### The nine-point accord:

1. The United States respects the independence, sovereignty, unit and territorial integrity of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

2. 24 hours after the signing of the agreement, a cease fire shall be observed throughout South Vietnam. The United States will stop all its military activities and end the bombing and mining in North Vietnam. Within sixty days, there will be a total withdrawal from South Vietnam of troops and military personnel of the United States and those of the foreign countries allied with the United States and with the Republic of Vietnam.

3. The return of all captured and detained personnel of the parties shall be carried out simultaneously with the U.S. troop withdrawal.

4. The South Vietnamese shall exercise the right of self-determination through genuinely free and democratic general elections under international supervision. The United States is not committed to any political tendency or to any personality in South Vietnam and it does not seek to impose a pro-American regime in Saigon. National reconciliation and concord will be achieved, the democratic liberties of the people ensured. An administrative structure called the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord of three equal segments - Communists, Neutralists, and Saigon governments - will be set up to promote the implementation of the signed agreements and to organize elections. The two

South Vietnams will decide the question of North Vietnamese troops in the South, without foreign interference.

5. The re-unification of Vietnam shall be carried out step-by-step through peaceful means.

6. There will be formed a four-party joint military commission and a joint military commission of the two South Vietnamese parties. An international commission of control and supervision shall be established and an international guarantee conference on Vietnam will be convened within 30 days of the signing of this agreement.

7. The governments of North and South Vietnam, the Viet Cong and the United States shall respect the fundamental national rights of Laos and Cambodia as set forth by the 1954 Geneva Conventions and will undertake to refrain from using the territories of Laos and Cambodia and those countries shall settle their own affairs.

8. The ending of the war, the restoration of peace in Vietnam will create conditions for establishing a new, equal and mutually beneficial relationship between North Vietnam and the United States. The United States will help with postwar reconstruction throughout Indochina.

9. This agreement shall come into effect as soon as it is signed. It shall be strictly implemented by all parties concerned.

It was true that she regarded the whole war as a sham; but apparently she had not even noticed that the name of the enemy had changed. "I thought we'd always been at war with Eurasia," she said vaguely. It frightened him a little...He agreed with her about it for perhaps a quarter of an hour. In the end he succeeded in forcing her memory back until she did dimly recall that at one time Eastasia and not Eurasia had been the enemy. But the issue still struck her as unimportant. "Who cares?" she said impatiently. "It's always one bloody war after another, and one knows the news is all lies anyway."

-George Orwell, 1984

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