

'Hold Me Accountable'

Nixon Proposes Withdrawal Of Troops From S. Vietnam

By FRANK CORMIER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon proposed Wednesday night a 12-month gradual withdrawal from South Vietnam of major portions of all outside troops — American, U.S.-allied and North Vietnamese. He said if his peace quest fails, he will expect the American people to hold me accountable.

Nixon called for mutual withdrawal of all outside troops under international supervision and suggested that step be followed by internationally guaranteed free elections in the South.

THE CHIEF executive outlined what he termed new initiatives in a major policy address for live broadcast to the nation by television and radio networks.

Administration sources billed Nixon's peace proposals as the most comprehensive, flexible and conciliatory ever advanced by the U.S. government.

"I would stress," the President said, "that these proposals are not offered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. We are quite willing to consider other approaches consistent with our principles."

UNDERLYING his peace plan, however, was a statement of determination to avoid unilateral withdrawal from South Vietnam or "a disguised defeat." He said: "Let me be quite blunt. Our fighting men are not going to be worn down; our negotiators are not going to be talked down; our allies are not going to be let down."

The Nixon package will be presented to Communist negotiators in Paris Friday by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, White House sources said.

WHILE concentrating on ideas for presentation in Paris, Nixon also said, "The time is approaching when South Vietnamese forces will be able to take over some of the fighting fronts now being manned by Americans."

Sources said some U. S. troops would be withdrawn from South Vietnam — regardless of what happens in Paris — as soon as such a move is deemed a responsible one by the administration, and one that officials felt would be regarded as a sign of confidence in the allied military position.

WHILE DECLARING there will be no easy or quick solution to the war, Nixon said in an appeal aimed directly at his homefront audience:

"Nothing could have a greater effect in convincing the enemy that he should negotiate in good faith than to see the American people united behind a generous and reasonable peace offer."

Recalling a campaign pledge to end the war in a way that would promote lasting peace, Nixon said:

"I am determined to keep that pledge. If I fail to do so, I expect the American people to hold me accountable for that failure."

BESIDES proposing a phased and supervised mutual withdrawal of troops and guaranteed elections in the South, Nixon said also the United States is prepared — if Saigon and the Communist negotiators are willing — to participate in a political as well as military settlement in the South.

Here were the major points in the Nixon package:

- As soon as a formal agreement or informal but credible understanding could be reached, all forces other than those of the South Vietnamese government and native units of the Viet Cong would begin withdrawals to be substantially completed over a 21-month period by agreed-upon stages.
- After the 12 months, all outside forces "would move into designated base areas and would not engage in combat operations."

- Remaining American and allied troops would complete their withdrawal "as the remaining North Vietnamese forces were withdrawn and returned to North Vietnam."

- "An international supervisory body, acceptable to both sides, would be created for the purpose of verifying withdrawals" and would help arrange supervised cease-fires.

- As soon as possible after the international body was functioning, elections would be held — open to all South Vietnamese who would forswear "the use of force or intimidation." The elections would be "under agreed procedures and under the supervision of the international body."

- Arrangements would be made for "the earliest possible release of prisoners of war on both sides."

- All parties would agree to observe the 1954 Geneva accords on Vietnam and Cambodia and the Laos accords of 1962.

NIXON said the United States also would ask that North Vietnam withdraw its forces from Cambodia and Laos in accord with a prescribed timetable.

Stating that his plan has the approval of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam, Nixon said, "I believe this proposal for peace is realistic, and takes account of the legitimate interests of all concerned."

At the outset, the chief executive said it might be easy and popular for him simply to withdraw American forces from the war. However, he argued that whatever the reasons for initial American involvement, "If we simply abandoned our effort in Vietnam, the cause of peace might not survive the damage that would be done to other nations' confidence in our reliability."

WHILE THE White House pictured the chief executive as presenting a virtually all-new package, many of the elements he advanced have been broached at one time or another.

One element, for a 12-month withdrawal, differed from an agreement reached by U.S. allies in the Vietnam war at the 1966 Manila conference. Those conferees pledged withdrawal within six months after a pullout of North Vietnamese troops and a lowering of the level of violence.

WHITE HOUSE sources pictured Nixon's suggestion as more flexible in that the North Vietnamese would not be required to act first and the President said nothing about a lower level of violence as a precondition to American withdrawal.

In his summation, Nixon said, "I do not ask unlimited patience from a people whose hopes for peace have too often been raised and cruelly dashed over the past four years." But he said he had tried to present the facts "with complete honesty."

He asked his listeners to consider the facts and, whatever their differences with the administration, that they "support a program which can lead to a peace we can live with and a peace we can be proud of."

AT ANOTHER point, he said: "The fact that there is no easy way to end the war does not mean that we have no choice but to let the war drag on with no end in sight . . ."

"The time has come for some new initiatives."

Several hours before his speech, Nixon summoned congressional leaders and Ambassador Lodge to the White House for an advance briefing. One of the participants said the President read portions of his text to them.

Called to the White House were Lodge, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, House Speaker John W.

McCormack, House Democratic Leader Carl Albert, House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and the Senate's GOP Leader, Everett M. Dirksen.

OTHER participants in the session, held in the Treaty Room of the White House living quarters, were Secretary Defense Melvin R. Laird, Undersecretary of State Elliot L. Richardson, and Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, the President's special assistant for national security affairs.

Lodge had arrived in Washington from the Paris talks less than three hours earlier. The White House said he would be receiving new instructions for the conduct of negotiations following the presidential address.

YR's Criticize Disposition Of April Elections

The Texas A&M Young Republican Club unanimously passed a resolution against the actions of the administration in the April Student Senate elections at a recent meeting. The Battalion learned this week.

The resolution quoted President Earl Rudder from the Foreword of University Regulations in one of its proposals: "That the administration of Texas A&M University be respectfully petitioned to promulgate clear rules and regulations enforce them fairly, and ABIDE BY THEM so that 'the students, the faculty, and the community operate in an orderly manner.'"

The group accused the administration Board of Appeals and the Executive Committee of acting outside the election code involving the case of Al Reinert. (Reinert is not a member of the club and is affiliated with the Democratic Party, according to the club.)

The resolution reprimanded the Board of Appeals because of what it termed "its officious interference with the rights of Texas A&M students to conduct the 1969 student body elections." At first, Reinert was qualified as a candidate on the basis of grades transferred from West Point. After winning the election he was disqualified on account of grades by the Board of Appeals.

'FISH'

(Continued From Page 1)

but isn't loaded with a lot of responsibility."

Next comes the veteran who can be compared to an Aggie senior. He is the one that knows all the loopholes and flaws about the bills that come before him.

"Like an Aggie senior, he knows when to pull rank to keep the other members informed on the fine print of bills, and preserve order in the House."

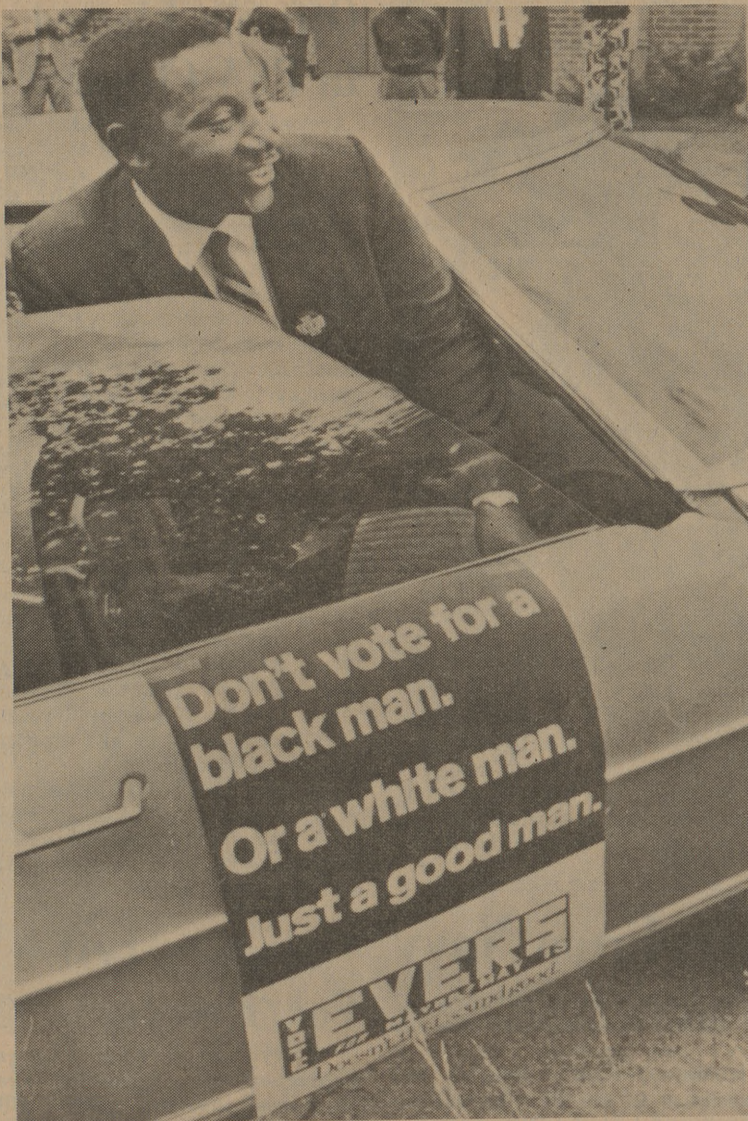
Tonight On KBTX

- 6:30 Lennon Sisters
- 7:30 Bewitched
- 8:00 Thursday Night Movie — "A Distant Trumpet"
- 10:00 News, Weather & Sports
- 10:30 The Avengers
- 11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

WEATHER

Friday — Cloudy. Intermittent thundershowers. Wind Southerly 15 to 25 mph. High 84, low 68.

Saturday — Partly cloudy to cloudy. Wind Southerly 10 to 15 mph. High 84, low 71.



EVERS AT THE POLLS

Negro leader Charles Evers leaves his car to vote Tuesday in Fayette's municipal elections. Evers is a candidate for mayor of the predominately Negro southwest Mississippi city. Evers refused to speculate on the election's outcome, although black voters outnumber white voters by a near 2-1 margin. (AP Wirephoto)

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