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Details Of Peace Pact Unveiled

U.S. To Get POWs Back At Intervals After Pact Signing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger said today U.S. prisoners of war will be turned over to American medical personnel in Hanoi at intervals of two weeks or 15 days after signing of a Vietnam peace agreement Saturday.

Speaking at a White House news conference, Kissinger disclosed for the first time some of the mechanics for returning the 479 U.S. prisoners known to be held in North Vietnam and Laos.

"American prisoners will be released at intervals of two weeks or 15 days in roughly equal installments," Kissinger said, with the total time frame coinciding with the 60-day withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam.

Prisoners held in North Vietnam and Laos, he said, will be received by U.S. medical teams in Hanoi and will be flown in American planes to locations to be selected by U.S. officials.

Kissinger did not say when the first American POWs would be released.

It was announced before Kissinger's news conference that the United States and North Vietnam have agreed to return all prisoners "without delay."

A document spelling out the agreement on handling POWs also says that the return "shall be carried out at places convenient to the concerned parties."

Again, the document released by the White House does not say what those places will be.

The places of return, the document said will be agreed upon by a new temporary joint military commission made up of representatives of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

The only specific time mentioned in the protocol stipulates that "the return of all captured persons ... shall be completed within 60 days of the signing of the agreement at a rate no slower than the rate

of withdrawal from South Vietnam of United States forces and those of other countries."

The document covering civilian as well as military prisoners on both sides provides that the seriously ill, wounded or maimed, and old persons and women shall be returned first.

"The remainder shall be returned either by returning all from one detention place after another or in order of their dates of capture, beginning with those who have been held the longest," the document said.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird said Tuesday night that teams of U.S. specialists and evacuation aircraft will be ready to go "as soon as possible" after the cease-fire agreement becomes effective Saturday.

Under the protocol, the United States, North Vietnam and the other warring parties are obligated to exchange complete lists of captured military personnel and civilians on Saturday, the same day as the agreement is signed.

This should provide the first hard information on just how many American servicemen are held captive and where they are.

The latest Pentagon list shows 587 captured and another 1,335 missing. A big question is how many of these men listed as missing are in POW camps in North Vietnam, South Vietnam or Laos and how many have not been found.

Within 15 days after the cease-fire, the signatories will agree on choosing two or more national Red Cross societies to "visit all places where captured military personnel and foreign civilians are held."

The United States long has contended that the North Vietnamese have violated Geneva Conventions on treatment of prisoners of war by refusing to allow the International Red Cross to inspect POW camps.

The protocol appears to open the way for American military men to enter North Vietnam as part of the prisoner exchange.



PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CEASE-FIRE — President Nixon sits in his White House office Tuesday night after telling the nation that a peace agreement in Vietnam has been reached. Nixon said a cease-fire will take effect Saturday. — (AP Wirephoto)

AP News Analysis ...

What Went Wrong In Vietnam?

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Special Correspondent

What went wrong for the United States in Indochina?

How could intentions regarded at the outset as honorable by most Americans bring results that ultimately would be widely denounced around the world?

Historians will be a long time probing the evidence. They are likely to label a lot of key U.S. actions and decisions as unqualified and extravagantly costly blunders.

From the vantage point of hindsight, some of the early judgments already being made go something like this:

1. Early alarm signals went unheeded.

Early in the game, as Americans began to get involved in a war they didn't understand, some U.S. leaders who would share responsibility for the policy of involvement were themselves fearful that the United States was painting itself into a corner. Those same leaders eventually helped wield the paintbrush.

An alarm signal came in November 1961 in a cable to President John F. Kennedy from Gen. Maxwell Taylor. Assessing the situation in Vietnam, Taylor noted that an engagement of U.S. prestige likely would be deepened proportionately by the number of U.S. troops committed.

If results were not achieved quickly, he said, "it will be difficult to resist the pressure to reinforce."

Another alarm was sounded that same month by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara. He told the President in a memorandum that introduction of a sizable U.S.

force would not have decisive effect, but would make it almost certain that the United States would "get increasingly mired down in an inconclusive struggle."

2. The United States, with its eyes open, went into a war that by some standards was unwinnable.

As late as June 1965, after the big escalation had started, a memorandum by Secretary of State Dean Rusk noted:

"Once we suffer large casualties we will have started a well-nigh irreversible process. Our involvement will be so great that we cannot without national humiliation stop short of achieving our complete objectives. Of the two possibilities, I think humiliation would be the more likely than achievement of our objectives — even after we have paid terrible costs."

3. U.S. Southeast Asia policy was murky.

There was hardly any Southeast Asia policy until Korea caused U.S. planners to improvise hastily. What resulted was closely connected to a fear that another area might be "lost" as China was "lost" to the Communists.

The China episode had produced political dynamite in the McCarthy era. Thereafter, the reading of U.S. cold war stakes became a matter of assuming a world Communist goal to gobble up Asia. When Lyndon B. Johnson became President, he said he would not be the man to see Southeast Asia go "the way China went."

4. The United States was embarrassed by its own power.

Involvement in an undeclared war meant war little by little, unsupported by any homefront mobilization. The expressed U.S. anxiety was to prevent a wide war.

The Americans had power enough to destroy all Vietnam at one blow many times over, but could not and would not use it. Thus, at the start, the United States was getting itself gradually drawn into a partial war, limited to what were regarded as minimal measures to stop the Communists.

5. Americans were confused and bewildered.

Until 1963, few Americans had any idea where Indochina might be on the map. They became acutely aware of it with the crisis of November 1963, when President Ngo Dinh Diem was assassinated. The Communists chose that time of upheaval to step up pressure. Gradually, Americans became aware they were involved in a shadowy, hit-and-run jungle guerrilla conflict.

Americans were involved with an Asian ally who could

Today's Index

Regular Features	Page No.
Ann Landers	32
Bridge	21
Classified	42-47
Comics	41
Editorial	48
Markets	20
Obituaries	10
Personals	4
Polly's Pointers	34
Show Time	40
Sports	37-39
Television	41
Timetable	40
Women's Pages	34-35

Cease-Fire Limited At Present To Viet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington and Hanoi unveiled today the details of an intricate peace package that limits an impending cease-fire to South Vietnam, but U.S. negotiator Henry Kissinger said he expects a formal cease-fire soon in Laos.

Kissinger also forecast an eventual "de facto cease-fire" in Cambodia, a neighboring country drawn into the long Indochina conflict.

The 17 page agreement, to be signed Saturday before the Vietnam cease-fire takes effect at 7 p.m. EST that day, does not call for the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the South—but it does call for all foreign troops to leave Laos and Cambodia.

"A Peace That Heals"

Expanding on stated terms of the agreement, Kissinger told a White House news conference that U.S. prisoners held in North Vietnam and Laos will be turned over to American medical personnel in Hanoi at two-week intervals while U.S. forces withdraw from South Vietnam.

Kissinger said the United States seeks "a peace that heals," and one that will last. He said the U.S. aim is to move from hostilities to normalization and conciliation with North Vietnam.

"...We believe that under conditions of peace we can contribute throughout Indochina to a realization of the humane aspirations of all the people of Indochina," he said, "and we will in that spirit perform our traditional role of helping people realize these aspirations in peace."

The presidential adviser said the U.S. Hanoi agreement forbids the use of base areas in Laos and Cambodia to infiltrate Communist troops into South Vietnam.

He said it is "our firm expectation that within a short period of time there will be a formal cease-fire in Laos ...

leading to the withdrawal of all foreign forces" and ending use of the country as a corridor for infiltration.

President Nixon, claiming all conditions for "peace with honor" have been met, announced Tuesday night agreement on a Vietnam accord to end America's longest war.

In a television-radio address, Nixon told the nation that the peace pact calls for an internationally supervised cease-fire, release of all American war prisoners within 60 days after the cease-fire, an accounting for all missing in action, and within the same 60-day period, withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam.

The pact was hailed by South Vietnamese President

State Greet Truce News With Relief

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sighs of relief seemed the most common reaction in Wisconsin to the announcement of a Vietnam cease-fire agreement Tuesday night. But in the homes of prisoners of war, there was outright joy.

Officials spoke of subdued emotion at the apparent end of the conflict and predicted, correctly, there would be no dancing in the streets.

The temptation to celebrate was understandably strongest among those with relatives who President Nixon says are to be released from Vietnam prison camps in 60 days.

"After five years, eight months and four days, you don't know how it feels to know it's over," Mrs. William Metzger of Wisconsin Rapids said. Her son, Navy Lt. Cmdr.

(Turn To Page 20, Col. 7)

Nguyen Van Thieu and announced by Hanoi radio.

In essence, the agreement and four accompanying diplomatic documents, called protocols, drew close to a Washington-Hanoi draft agreement made known last Oct. 26—the day when Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief negotiator, proclaimed that "peace is at hand."

The settlement package calls for a four-cow international control commission force of 1,160 persons to go to South Vietnam as a peace-keeping unit. The number contrasted with the original Hanoi demand for a ceiling of 250 personnel and an American suggestion of 5,000.

Despite the imminence of the cease-fire, Communist attacks in South Vietnam doubled overnight. South Vietnamese claimed the Communists were trying for last-minute gains before the truce takes effect.

The agreement disclosed for the first time that both the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union are proposed as participants in an international conference to be held within 30 days to try to guarantee that the peace plan works.

Other conference participants being proposed by the United States and North Vietnam are France, the United Kingdom, the four countries of the international control commission—Hungary, Canada, Indonesia and Poland—and the secretary-general of the United Nations.

Hanoi and Washington also would participate.

Cong Barred

The formal agreement declares that the South Vietnamese people have an inalienable right to self-determination and "shall decide themselves the political future of South Vietnam through genuinely free and democratic general elec-

(Turn To Page 10, Col. 1)

Settlement Highlights

By KENNETH J. FREED
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here are the highlights of the basic Vietnam agreement that will be signed Saturday in Paris:

Military Provisions:

A n internationally supervised cease-fire will go into effect at 7 p.m. EST, Saturday, Jan. 27. The cease-fire will apply in both North and South Vietnam.

Upon the cease-fire going into effect, the United States will begin withdrawal of all its forces and military personnel from South Vietnam to be completed within 60 days.

Concurrently with the American withdrawal the North Vietnamese and its allies will begin the release of all American servicemen and civilians captured throughout Indochina. There will be the "fullest possible accounting for missing in action."

The infiltration of troops and war supplies into South Vietnam is banned. The government of South Vietnam, however, has the right to unlimited military replacement aid.

All sides pledge respect for the Demilitarized Zone at the 17th Parallel. The goal of

reunification of North and South Vietnam is recognized but will be achieved only through negotiation between the two Vietnams.

There is no specific mention of North Vietnamese troops in the South but both sides agree to the reduction and demobilization of Communist and government forces in the South.

All foreign troops will be withdrawn from Laos and Cambodia and there is a ban on use of base areas in those two nations for the purpose of attacking or threatening the security of South Vietnam.

Political Provisions

The United States and North Vietnam agree that the South Vietnamese people have a right to self-determination. The government of the Republic

(Turn To Page 10, Col. 3)

50 Area GIs Die In Vietnam...

They Paid War's Full Price

The historic cease-fire announcement Tuesday night fell with the sharpest impact on approximately 50 area families who have had no joyous homecomings with their servicemen, only flag-draped caskets and grave-side volleys.

Gaps in these family circles spread over the Sheboygan area are poignant reminders at war's end that more than 50 servicemen gave their lives in the Vietnam conflict, either in hostilities or in war-related activities.

Twenty Sheboygan County men were killed in action—part of the state-wide Vietnam War toll of 1,128.

Another 35 county soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were wounded in action from the height of the fighting in 1966 to the present.

The county's first native son to fall victim of a shot

fired in combat in Vietnam was a former resident, Special Forces Captain David Widder, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Widder, East Norwich, Long Island, N.Y., and a nephew of Dr. Ashton Wick of Sheboygan.

Widder, a 1955 graduate of North High School, was hit by ground fire while on an aerial reconnaissance flight in March, 1965.

Six months later Lester O. Biehl, a Sheboygan Navy SeaBee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester J. Biehl, was killed in a motor vehicle crash at the Da Nang Marine base.

Sheboygan's first combat victim, U.S. Navy Radioman Terrance J. Freund, died when his gunboat was attacked on patrol in the Mekong Delta, in October, 1966. He was the son of Mrs. Virginia Nehrling.

A building at the Navy's communications base in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, was named for Freund and he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross — second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor — for his heroic efforts in keeping an enemy battalion at bay with his machine gun despite being wounded in the action which eventually claimed his life.

Marine Corporal Duane A. Vogel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rueben A. Vogel, also gave his life for a comrade's.

Vogel, 19, was leading his squad on patrol near Da Nang when another Marine was swept away by a river current. Vogel jumped in to save him but both were drowned.

Vogel's parents received the Marine Corps' highest "peacetime" award, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Plymouth's first war vic-

tim was Marine Lance Cpl. John P. Gannon, killed by shrapnel near the Demilitarized Zone on his 13th combat engagement in July, 1967.

Gannon's widow, Sharon, later enlisted in the Marine Corps to take her husband's place and "repay my country for being an American."

Another local Marine, Sergeant Arleigh Felch of Sheboygan died a month later, also leaving a widow, Nancy, and an infant son.

He was hit by Viet Cong rifle fire near Da Nang on his second tour of duty in the southeast Asian war.

Sheboygan County's fifth — and Plymouth's second — victim was Loren L. Ertel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Ertel.

Army Specialist 4th Class Ertel died of wounds sus-

(Turn To Page 20, Col. 4)

After 'Dirty War' Saigon Heads For 'Dirty Peace'

By PETER ARNETT
AP Special Correspondent

The Vietnam peace will likely be as difficult to assess and be as controversial as was the Vietnam war.

The conflict got the title "dirty war" years ago because of the inconclusiveness of the fighting and the vagueness of military and political objectives.

For similar reasons South

Vietnam seems headed toward a "dirty peace."

As of this writing, specific details of the peace accords initiated in Paris on Tuesday had not been announced.

But Saigon government trepidation with the developing settlement had been voiced up to the last moment. There seems little doubt that the final agreement will have some extremely vague provisions be-

cause of the need to compromise.

Such fuzziness will allow the signatories wide latitude to abuse the spirit of the accords but not necessarily the text. Charge and countercharges of violations can be expected to become commonplace.

The major area of conflict will surround the changing role of the Viet Cong from clandestine guerrilla fighters striking from the jungles and swamps to legal participants in the political affairs of South Vietnam.

It was to avoid such a development that President Nguyen Van Thieu and the anticommunist governments that preceded him feared a negotiated settlement to the war. They knew that such a settlement would inevitably have to give political recognition to the Viet Cong, the inheritors in South Vietnam of the revolutionary legacy of Ho Chi Minh.

The Viet Cong today is not the people's army that crippled Saigon's forces in 1965 and brought the Americans into the war. Seven years of bloody fighting have decimated the proud battalions and torn the web of infrastructure that once threaded through every village in the country.

Documents captured this past year indicate clearly that the Communist leadership's first order of business will be to rebuild the old underground. Communist forces currently are credited with holding about half the territory of South Vietnam but only around 10 per cent of the population.

Some experts, remembering the legendary organizational prowess of the Viet Cong, would concede them 25 per cent of the vote in a free election. But this is nowhere near enough support to grasp power legally.

Thieu is well aware of the Viet Cong hopes. He reportedly has deployed his forces to frustrate them. Numerous fire-fights and incidents can be ex-

(Turn To Page 10, Col. 1)

Local Reaction ...

Peace News Sparks Elation And Relief

Elation, relief and skepticism greeted President Nixon's Tuesday night announcement of a Vietnam cease-fire as Sheboygan reflected today on the end of a 12-year undeclared war.

No bells or whistles marked the announcement and, so far, no celebration has been planned.

How does a community celebrate the end of a police action?

Mayr Roger Schneider said that, although people here have been awaiting news of the ceasefire since last fall, the announcement came as a surprise to many who have grown skeptical of false hopes and promises.

"I'm elated, and the people I talk to are pleased that the war is ending, but there is an overall feeling that it all should have ended years ago," the mayor reflected.

He termed the U.S. involvement in Vietnam a "fiasco" and expressed the hope that our experiences there would serve as a deterrent to future conflicts of this type.

Rabbi Nathan Barack, one of the first local clergymen

to speak publicly against the war, said, "We are grateful the peace has finally come, and we feel deeply pained that it didn't come earlier. Our hearts go out to those who paid the terrible price during the long war."

Looking toward the future, the rabbi remarked, "We pray our own country will be reunited to carry on the essential business of justice and reconciliation that must be done here."

For those families who paid the "terrible price," there was joy tinged with renewed sorrow.

Mrs. Wesley Mulder Adell, whose medic son, Russell, was killed in an heroic effort to aid the wounded, said the peace settlement has brought the family some measure of comfort.

"We feel Russell, through his participation, has helped bring peace to Vietnam. To us, it means Russell didn't die in vain."

For another soldier, the advent of peace brought back memories of the battlefield and growing personal disillusionment.

Ex-Marine Gary Beernick

(Turn To Page 20, Col. 3)