

Officials Predict Ho Peace Veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top U.S. officials foresee more hard fighting ahead in Vietnam before a decisive answer can be expected from Hanoi on President Johnson's new bombing halt bid to get peace talks started.

The initial reaction from North Vietnam is likely to be negative, officials said, but Johnson has put no time limit on his partial suspension of air attacks against North Vietnam. He is said to be prepared to wait for a reasonable time for President Ho Chi Minh to consider his proposal, announced Sunday night.

Johnson's decision to halt all bombing except for major infiltration routes is attributed to a belief in the administration that the Vietnamese war may be in a climactic stage. If this view is correct, then after further hard fighting, the North Vietnamese may be prepared to go into negotiations and seek a compromise settlement of the conflict.

Hanoi Silent

Several top officials checked by the Associated Press said privately that Johnson did not decide to make his move at this time because of any secret show of interest from Hanoi in making a deal now.

One official said he knew of no encouraging sign from the North Vietnamese capital. Another called the President's action "an honest step in the dark" in the hope that it would lead to talks.

Officials recognized, however, that the bid might very well fail. This view was expressed explicitly by former Undersecretary of State George Ball, who continues in close touch with U.S. authorities on Vietnamese war issues.

Ball told newsmen at a luncheon here Monday that he does not think "there will be any serious negotiations with the North Vietnamese" until after a new U.S. President has taken office next January.

In announcing Sunday night that he was stopping air strikes against most of North Vietnam, Johnson called on Britain and the Soviet Union to do everything within their power to arrange peace talks, and Monday the British government began sounding out Moscow on possible action.

British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart conferred with Soviet Ambassador Mikhail N. Smirnovsky on Johnson's proposal.

But a dispatch distributed by the Soviet news agency Tass called Johnson's peace move a maneuver that ignored North Vietnam's long standing demand for an unconditional end to all bombing attacks and other acts of war against its territory.

No Complete Stop

Johnson said in his speech to the nation that the cessation of bombing could be made complete if President Ho Chi Minh would now take some reciprocal action to scale down the fighting but that he could not "in good conscience stop all bombing so long as to do so would immediately and directly endanger the lives of our men and our allies."

He was referring to the fact that heavy concentrations of North Vietnamese troops are operating in the border areas close to South Vietnam, particularly in the regions opposite the Marine position at Khe Sanh and other U.S. and allied outposts in the Northern region of South Vietnam.

It is in this area or perhaps in the central highlands of South Vietnam that the President's advisers say they foresee more bitter fighting. Their hope is that this prospective round of battles, if it develops, will result in such severe defeats for the North Vietnamese forces that the Hanoi government will decide the time has come to de-escalate the war and agree to negotiations.

The administration view that the conflict has entered a climactic stage arises from the results of the Communist winter-spring offensive which was launched at the end of January against the cities and towns of South Vietnam. Officials feel that while the offensive inflicted a partial defeat on the United States and South Vietnam, it was a defeat also for the Communists.

Kennedy Wants To 'Work Together' With Johnson

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, bringing his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination into Pennsylvania, said yesterday he would "make some arrangements" to meet with President Johnson.

"I don't know what his, Johnson's, schedule is going to be, because his schedule is more important than mine," the New York senator said. Earlier in the day, Kennedy said he had asked Johnson for an early meeting to discuss "how we might work together in the interest of national unity."

The President's decision Sunday night not to seek renomination—an announcement that stunned the world—made Kennedy an apparent front-runner for the party's presidential nomination.

Kennedy and his wife Ethel arrived at Philadelphia International Airport late Monday for a two-day tour of the metropoli-area, including Camden, N.J.

Kennedy was met at the airport by a throng of reporters and some 300 supporters, most of them young people. He told the gathering he had come because he needs their help.

"This is going to be a hard and difficult campaign," he said. "There are great problems and great divisions facing the United States."

Kennedy said he thanked the President Sunday night, and again Monday, for withdrawing from the race, and "for placing his country first."

He then talked about the "division between black and white."

"The solutions are not easy," he said. "But we can find the answers to our problems."

Kennedy was to speak at several locations in suburban Delaware County Monday night before crossing the Delaware River for an address in Camden.

Clark, Scott Comment

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson's decision against running for re-election put Pennsylvania's senators in contrasting positions yesterday. One talking politics while the other remained mum.

Republican Sen. Hugh Scott, who urged New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to reconsider his decision to stay out of the GOP presidential race, said he conferred with Rockefeller yesterday.

"My advice to the party is to stay loose and keep tight hold on your delegates," Scott said.

The former GOP national chairman declined to say a draft movement was afoot. He denied he was out to scuttle the presidential nomination hopes of former vice president Richard Nixon.

But he made it clear he is for Rockefeller.

"I don't care whether we draft him, persuade him or talk him into it," Scott said. "I personally feel he's the best candidate."

Democratic Sen. Joseph S. Clark, who last month told reporters he supports Johnson "at this time," declined to say yesterday who he now will support as his party's Presidential choice.

He praised Johnson's decision to de-escalate the Vietnam war, Johnson's decision to bow out of the presidential race. Clark said "The President has clearly put the national interest above partisan or political interests."

"This was a courageous and generous act for which history will surely judge him well," said Clark, a critic of Johnson's Vietnam war policies.

Urge Rocky To Reconsider

Papers Praise LBJ

By The Associated Press

President Johnson's decision not to run for re-election was interpreted by New York State newspapers Monday, as an act of statesmanship in which the President put the welfare of his country ahead of his own pride.

The underlying assumption by most editorial writers was that Johnson's record at the White House was blemished by the Vietnam war and that he was determined to do everything possible to remove this blemish before leaving office.

The President's announcement prompted many New York newspapers to urge Gov. Rockefeller to reassess his previous decision not to seek the Republican nomination for President.

Prevailing opinion was that Johnson's action has strengthened America's diplomatic position abroad while giving him an opportunity to rally people at home.

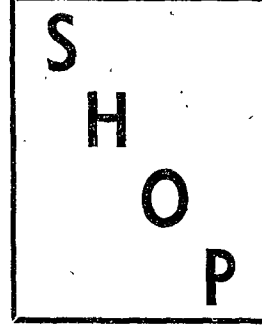
"This tall Texan never stood taller as a national leader and a man," said the Rochester, N.Y., Times-Union.

The Lockport, N.Y., Union Sun and Journal said: "The President's order to halt virtually all bombing in North Vietnam strengthened the U.S. position with many foreign nations." The paper added that North Vietnamese leaders "cannot disregard the fact that they are not likely to have a better opportunity to come to the bargaining table."

"In removing himself from the 1968 race, President Johnson may be showing a kind of loyalty to his country that will tend to unite," said the Watertown Times. "If the division were to end by his removing himself, then he will have accomplished much for the United States."



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- MUSLIN
- RIT DYE

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- FISHING TACKLE
- PLAYING CARDS
- TENNIS BALLS
- TENNIS RACKETS
- GOLF BALLS
- ARCHERY SETS
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