

Johnson Says U.S. Ready For 'Unconditional' Talks

The Associated Press WASHINGTON—President Johnson says the United States is ready without preconditions—to sit down at the bargaining table with the Communists to try to negotiate an end to the war in Vietnam.

And even before any peace talks start, the President said Wednesday night in a major foreign policy address, the United States is prepared to initiate a massive cooperative economic development program for all of

Southeast Asia, including Communist North Vietnam.

As a starter, Mr. Johnson told the nation by radio and television from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he will ask Congress to authorize a \$1-billion American investment in the program.

He proposed that U.N. Secretary-General U Thant launch the plan, invited all industrialized

countries including the Soviet Union to join and said he is naming a special team of prominent Americans headed by Eugene Black, former president of the World Bank, to guide U.S. participation.

But while showing the Communist world the carrot, the President did not forget the stick.

He said of U.S. involvement in the war at the side of South Vietnam: "We will not withdraw either openly or under the cloak of a meaningless agreement."

And while he said the United States is unconditionally ready to discuss peace, he said: "Such peace demands an independent South Vietnam—securely guaranteed and able to shape its own relationships to all others—free from outside interference—tied to no alliance—a military base for no country. "These are the essentials of any final settlement."

Mr. Johnson said there are

many approaches to a peaceful settlement of the war, that old agreements may have to be reaffirmed or strengthened with new ones.

"We have stated this position over and over again 50 times and more to friend and foe alike," he said. "And we remain ready—with this purpose—for unconditional discussions."

The estimated 1,200 people in the university's Shriver Hall auditorium interrupted the speech 15 times with applause. Mrs. Johnson studied her husband intently; Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey beamed his approval.

With them on the platform were Mrs. Humphrey and the

Johnsons' daughters, Lynda and Luci. All motored the 40 miles from the capital by limousine when overcast skies forced cancellation of a planned helicopter flight.

In New York a spokesman for Thant said the secretary-general planned to study the speech carefully and would have some comment this morning.

On Capitol Hill, Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Kirkson, heretofore a staunch supporter of the Democratic President's Vietnam policy, was critical. "Is this another case of where the American trumpets sound retreat?" he asked. "Do you buy freedom for a humble people? I doubt it."



PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Beshear Names Student Members Of Committees

Walter Grant and Linda McDonald to the library committee; Rich Robbins and Linda Mills to the honors program committee; Charles Benjamin Ashby and Suzanne Ziegler to the campus safety committee; and Earl Bryant and Nancy Coffman to the international students committee.

Student Congress President Steve Beshear has announced the appointment of students to seven faculty committees.

Two students will serve on each committee.

Appointments include: Pat Patton and Sally Gregory to the Commencement committee; Clay Stephens and Sherry Smith to the scholarship and student loans committee; Joe Mulloy and Dona Grant to the rules committee.

Louisville Men Bound Over

Three Louisville men were bound over to the Grand Jury Monday on charges of murder and malicious shooting and wounding. The incident took place near the University campus on February 5 after a Lexington Dunbar-Louisville Central basketball game.

Charged with murdering Billy Fogle and wounding Ralph Demus after a high school basketball game held in Memorial Coliseum were Luther Wayne Latham, Robert Nathaniel Mitchem and Richard Gentry McCoomer, all 20.

The case will be heard May 10.

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