

By JACK RAYMOND
(New York Times News Service)

4/11/65

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Dean Rusk expressed "disappointment" Saturday in the Communist response to President Johnson's proposal to end the fighting in Vietnam through unconditional discussions.

The secretary of state, on his return from meetings in Teheran and Geneva, said that if "these people" referring to the Communist leaders in Peking and Hanoi—would only respect the Southeast Asian need for peace it would be accomplished "literally overnight."

In his speech Wednesday night, President Johnson said that the United States was ready for "unconditional discussions" to bring an end to the fighting.

He also proposed a cooperative program to develop the Southeast Asian economy, based on harnessing the Mekong river, and promised a U. S. contribution of \$1 billion toward that aim.

Saturday in San Marcos, Texas, the President reiterated the U. S. desire for peace but cautioned even more emphatically than before against any miscalculation of this country's readiness to fight for freedom.

THEME REPEATED

He repeated this theme in the same speech saying: "Let none misjudge—let none doubt—the will that supports this American purpose of peace and freedom."

In his talk to newsmen here, secretary Rusk was asked about the swift denunciation of President Johnson's Wednesday night speech by Peking and Hanoi. The North Vietnamese radio, for example denounced it as "deceitful."

Secretary Rusk observed that the initial Communist reactions might very well be merely restatements of earlier policies. He said he wanted to study the statements in detail.

Rusk was met at Andrews Air Force Base where his jet plane landed, by his wife and Under Secretary of State George W. Ball. He went directly to his State Department office.

Interviewed at the base by newsmen Rusk commented briefly on the Communist reaction to the President's speech and on the reported encounter Friday between U.S. and Communist Chinese warplanes over the Gulf of Tonkin.

The secretary of state, without describing the military operations,

said that American fliers were under clear orders not to go over mainland China or its air space.

ISLANDS INCLUDED

Those orders, he went on, included the Communist Chinese island of Hainan, which lies in the eastern part of the Gulf of Tonkin.

The Communist Chinese news agency Hsinhua reported a clash between the Peking regime's fighter planes and eight American airplanes over the island.

U. S. officials here have said that four Navy Phantom jets, on patrol, battled an unidentified force of MIG jets 35 miles southwest of Hainan.

Rusk had attended the meeting of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) powers at Teheran and had stopped over in Geneva for consultations with the U. S. ambassadors of the Middle East area.

He was asked by newsmen whether he had seen any signs of increased tensions in the Middle East. Rusk replied: "We didn't see signs of it in the Middle East. In the CENTO countries, relations with the Communist countries are more or less normal."

"But when you look at recent events in Berlin," Secretary Rusk went on, "you understand that things can change very quickly."