At the peace table in Paris - could it be a new beginning? At any rate, the US and South Vietnam - today did offer a new two-phased peace plan; one that calls for a basic agreement now - with the terms of a final treaty to come later. This to permit a total US withdrawal - coupled with the return of American PO W's. All of which led today to discussions - lasting five and a half hours.

US Ambassador William Porter later saying:
"We had an interesting meeting." The Communists "asked
questions which we answered" - said he. Adding "We had
quite a few questions for them - which they answered."

So what will the next step be?

Meanwhile, here at home, Secretary of State William Rogers - was briefing five hundred editors and broadcasters on U.S. policy; saying he was "somewhat encouraged" - by developments today in Paris; especially an apparent Communist interest "about how the fairness" of future elections in South Vietnam "can be assured."

"A good sign" - said Secretary Rogers.

Over at the White House - President Nixon today announced the resignation of his Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans; who will now head a fund raising campaign -- to help finance the President's bid for re-election. Stans adding on his own - he was reluctant to leave the President's Cabinet.

"But I can serve my country best" - said he - "by working for his re-election."

a former Chicago business man - to more recently the

President's top advisor on international economics.

Could this to

perhaps a sign of better days ahead? The US Labor

Department reporting today - for the month of December

- a sharp drop in unemployment insurance claims.

Also, a sharp increase in the average work week
from forty-point—one to forty-point—three hours.

Government experts saying that these figures 4 "may well be signalling a significant reduction in unemployment in Nineteen Seventy-Two.

at the Vatican a report today commending religious
freedom in Communist Poland. The Jesuits saying:
"Priests can freely preach Catholic doctrine without
government interference; they can - and do - denounce
injustices; they can also contain criticize - objectively government activities."

This said to constitute the warmest praise

44 a major church order has ever afforded a

Communist so government - one that could pave the

way for a new working agreement between Communism

and Catholism - in Poland, at least.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the U.S. Apollo Sixteen Moon ship was returned today to its assembly building for repairs to the fuel system. Space officials later saying: "Will be back on schedule - by the first week of March; with target launch date still set for April Sixteenth.

In Northern Ireland, Londonderry, terrorist

machine gunners - killing two policeman and wounding a third

In a later skirmish there - a British soldier was wounded.

At nearby Forkhill - adjacent to the Irish Republic

- a cross border another gun battle, between IRA terrorists

and Scots Dragoon Guards. The terrorists finally taking

flight - when troops of the IRA arrived on the scene.

Topeka, Kansas - a local gay liberation

front went to federal court today attempting to gain

official recognition from the University of Kansas.

Counsel for the plaintiff; attorney William Kunstler was

refused a hearing by

- the only for briefly. The Judge assigned to the case.-

Judge George Templar telling Kunstler "your fame is notorious and you have exploited it across the country," Repeating over and over - "that these courts are not the place to get justice". Thereby showing "disdain and contempt" - for the U S judicial process. The Judge families further telling Kunstler;—"without the courts, these poor people you've misguided would be in a deplorable condition."

Donald Barr - headmaster of New York's Dalton

School - says "education in this country is in bad shape."

And the main reason? The permissive attitude of both

parents and educators - who fail to say "no" when the

situation demands.

Donald Barr adding: "On the day parents stop paying tuition for non-education, on the day they stop handing out allowances for strike funds and narcotics, and reeking apartments - on that day - the student revolution will wither away and the real learning will begin."

We have a report of an increase in ethnic jokes especially on college campuses. According to Jack Sable,
New York State Commissioner of Human rights, such jokes
are either witless or insensitive; always motivated by
bigotry or racism." He says he is "prepared to proceed
against offenders under terms of the New York antidiscrimination laws.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko - in Tokyo met today with Prime Minister Sato; and then it was announced that Russia and Japan - have finally agreed to start regotiations on a World War Two peace treaty. One of the major problems to solve - when - if ever, will Japan get back those northern Islands long held by Russia. Sakhalin and the Kuriles?

From Guam we have a postscript to the story

of Shoichi Yokoi; the Japanese soldier who finally gave up

after twenty-eight years in hiding?

Shoichi Yokoi told reporters. He was able to survive because of "faith in God and the Emperor." The fifty-six ex-soldier when shown a recent photo of Emperor Hirohito failed to recognize his Mikado and had to be told who it was. Shoichi Yokoi observing; "The Emperor has certainly aged, hasn't he." As has Shoichi Yokoi, but not you, Warren.

In parts of the U.S. - winter arrived this week.

If you think it's cold though - listen to this. The

temperature today at the city of Inyakutsk in Soviet Siberia

- seventy-six degrees below zero. Nor was it an Inyakutsk

record.

The all time low at Inyakutsk - a chilling eighty below back in Nineteen Twenty Seven. Seventy six below isn't exactly balmy; but TASS says it's a temperature at which the city continues to function normally." For Siberia, where there are even colder spots, and so longuntil tomorrow.