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Reuter
7/14/71

CHOU: PRC WILLING TO JOIN ANOTHER GENEVA CONFERENCE

London REUTER in English 0933 GMT 14 Jul 71 X

[Text] Hong Kong, July 14, REUTER--by Ernesto Mendoza--Australian opposition Labor Party leader Gough Whitlam said today after talks with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai that China was willing to take part in another Geneva conference on Indochina.

Whitlam also said a new communist peace plan for Vietnam, outlined at the Paris peace talks, had been endorsed by China and was a "real initiative" for American disengagement.

He was speaking at a news conference here before flying to Tokyo after a 12-day visit to China with five other Australian Labor Party officials and nine newsmen.

Whitlam said he discussed a Geneva conference with Premier Chou, whose government participated in the 1954 conference which ended the Indochina war.

"The Chinese Government is quite willing to participate in any renewed Geneva conference," he said.

But Whitlam said the original structure of the Geneva conference which was "too much in the hands of Europeans" might now have to be changed.

He noted that Britain and the Soviet Union were cochairmen of the conference and two of the three members of the International Control Commission set up to supervise the peace--Canada and Poland--were not Asian. The third member is India.

"One would have to expect that administrative arrangements to carry out a revived conference between the Geneva participants would have to be in a more Asian framework," he said.

On the Viet Cong seven-point peace formula which offers the release of all U.S. war prisoners simultaneously with the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam before the end of the year, Whitlam said, "I don't believe any previous proposal has been endorsed by China." He added, "This is a real initiative by the other side for American disengagement."