Thant Sees Obstacles to U.N. Action, Calls for Restraint by All Parties

By Louis B. Fleming The Los Angeles Times

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 12—Secretary General U. Thant urgently appealed today for a conference inside or outside the United Nations to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the war in Viet-Nam.

He indicated he will not summon a meeting of the Seobstacles to direct U.N. action.

But he urged all parties to exercise retraint and to refrain from any action which might enlarge the conflict.

the form of a press statement

tive, his press spokesman said. get out of control, would cbto delegations. No consultato the peace of the world." tions are planned with the interested parties unless they sisted that a political solution. themselves seek it, according not a military approach, is the to the spokesman.

In this context, the appeal versy. appeared to be nothing more than a reiteration of the press curity Council because of the statements made last summer call a meeting of the Security by the Secretary General. Aa Council but said that a United a news conference in July he Nations solution is difficult "in specifically endorsed reconvening the 1954 Geneva Conference on Southeast Asia. In- fact that some of the principal Thant made the appeal in he still favors that plan. formed sources said today that parties are not represented in

"I am greatly disturbed by after consulting with Ambas-recent events in Southeast erence to the Security Council sadors Roger Seydoux of Asia and particularly by the meetings last August after the France, President of the Se-seriously deteriorating situa-Gulf of Tonkin incidents. A curity Council this month, and tion in Viet-Nam," Thant said. Council invitation was rejected Alex Quaison-Sackey of Ghana, "My fear, frankly, is in re- by North Viet-Nam which, like President of the General As-gard to the dangerous possi-Communist China, is not a bilities of escalation because member of the world organi-He plans no further initia-such a situation, if it should zation.

No direct appeal will be made viously pose the gravest threat

The Secretary General inonly way to solve the contro-

He also noted his authority under the U.N. charter to view of its past history and the the United Nations."

This presumably was a ref-



Jacques Faizant, from Paris Presse

"I've been thinking it over." (The neutralization of Southeast Asia).