

Post 12-25-74

N. Vietnam, VC Won't Seek MIAs

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Dec. 24 — North Vietnam and the Vietcong, in separate messages to the United States, said today that they would refuse to search for missing American servicemen in the foreseeable future.

The North Vietnamese, in a Foreign Ministry statement, demanded full implementation of the Paris peace agreement, including U.S. aid to Hanoi, as its condition for cooperation.

The Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government said all American military aid to Saigon must be ended and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu must be overthrown before there can be any cooperation.

About 8,350 Americans work in Saigon for the U.S. government and government contractors, helping coordinate the expenditure of about \$1.15 billion in annual aid to Saigon, including \$700 million in military aid.

Despite a promise in the cease-fire agreement to help rebuild North Vietnam, U.S. administration has not asked Congress for funds, because it says Hanoi continues to violate the truce.

The notes were in reply to a U.S. demand last week for detailed information on 87 American servicemen whose fate, the embassy maintained, was known to the Communists.

The Vietnam ground war continued hot and heavy into Christmas Eve.

Vietcong forces broke through government defense lines into Tanhlinh district town 75 miles northeast of here, the South Vietnamese reported.

It said they entered the district capital after a barrage of more than 3,000 shells hit the town, which has been under direct attack since yesterday.

In Cambodia, government troops said they had killed 50 pro-Communist rebels who tried to seize a rice stock at Doh Kanchor army camp and refugee center, 48 miles southwest of Phnom Penh.