

Canadians Say Hanoi Adamant

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OTTAWA, March 1—Canadian experts believe that North Vietnam now will make no move toward peace negotiations with the United States without the approval of Communist China.

This hardening of the North Vietnamese position within the last few weeks has been detected through a visit to Hanoi by Brigadier A. G. Chubb, one of the Canadian representatives on the International Control Commission.

Canada shares ICC membership with Poland and India. In November and December, Poland took the initiative, with Canadian encouragement, in promoting a meeting between American and North Vietnamese envoys in Warsaw.

Shortly before the meeting scheduled for Dec. 14, North Vietnam withdrew from the agreement, alleging that the United States had bombed Hanoi.

It is considered possible here that Hanoi's present attitude stems from the effort by Soviet Premier Kosygin several weeks ago to induce North Vietnam to make some gesture of military de-escalation in return for the temporary suspension of American bombing last month.

Hanoi could be seeking to enlist Chinese backing in resisting pressure from the Russians.

At the same time, North Vietnamese officials are said to keep bringing up the name of Chester Ronning, the retired Canadian expert on China and former High Commissioner to India who made two trips to Hanoi last year.

External Affairs Minister Paul Martin said Monday in the House of Commons that he would offer to send Ronning back to Hanoi any time he thought the move would be helpful. But there are no present plans for this.

Although Canadian leaders have declined to describe American shelling and mining of harbors publicly as escalation, they believe that the U.S. position also has hardened. They understand thoroughly that there must be some concrete step by North Vietnam beyond a mere expression of willingness to talk if the bombing is stopped.

Ultimately, Canadian officials assert, their own usefulness may be to relay a message from Hanoi to Washington. But they emphasize that nothing of the sort is in sight.