

Post 3/4/61

U Thant Meets in Burma With N. Vietnam Officials

From Wire Dispatches

United Nations Secretary General U Thant met with North Vietnamese representatives in Burma while, in Moscow, Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny charged the United States is not interested in Vietnam peace talks.

Burma

RANGOON—U.N. Secretary General Thant discussed the Vietnam war with visiting officials from Hanoi, North Vietnamese Consul General

Le Tung-son confirmed yesterday. He would not say when the meeting took place.

Le said Thant came to the consulate and exchanged views on the war with Col. Ha Van Lau and Nyguyen Tu Nguyen. The two North Vietnamese arrived in Rangood Saturday—the day after Thant began his vacation here—for what was described as “a routine inspection visit.” Le, who had been absent from his post for ten weeks, came with them.

Le insisted the two men, who returned to Hanoi yesterday, brought no message for Thant and were carrying no message to Hanoi from Thant.

Soviet Union

MOSCOW—U.S. offers to talk peace are “just camouflage” masking American aims for an all-out military victory in Vietnam, Soviet President Podgorny said yesterday.

“The only interest of the United States in Vietnam is to subjugate Vietnam by force of arms,” Podgorny said in a speech at an awards ceremony in the Kremlin. The Johnson Administration’s talk of a political settlement in Vietnam is “worthless,” he added.

The Philippines

MANILA—No major change in U.S. policy in Asia is likely to emerge from next week’s meeting of American ambassadors in the region, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Far East William Bundy said yesterday. Bundy is here to preside over the annual conference.