

# Hanoi, Protesting Air Attacks, Sends Deputy to Talks in Paris

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PARIS, March 4—The Vietcong and North Vietnamese chief delegates stayed away from the Paris negotiations today to protest American air attacks on North Vietnam. Their deputies attended the 105th session, a grim and fruitless meeting.

Charging that the United States was massing forces near the 17th Parallel—the border between the two Vietnams—the Hanoi delegation issued “a solemn warning to the American aggressors that, in launching a new adventure against the Democratic republic of Vietnam, they would receive appropriate punishment.”

A spokesman said the United States had concentrated many of its troops in the north in addition to many of what he termed puppet troops. In the last few days, he continued, the number of planes in northern South Vietnam had been considerably reinforced and many American naval vessels were “prowling” off the North Vietnamese coast, including four aircraft carriers where there was one before.

The chief United States negotiator, David K. E. Bruce, in a single statement that was one of the briefest and sharpest made during the two years of the conference, told the other side:

“The attitude on your side today indicates you are still not interested in a negotiated settlement. Instead of treating the real issues here, you waste everyone’s time with maneuvers, polemics and propaganda. In sum, instead of taking the opportunity these meetings offer to make peace and end the killing, you use them only to justify your continuing to wage war.”

Mr. Bruce told reporters that the abstention of the chief North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegates, Xuan Thuy and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, had been a maneuver. Their spokesman declined to say whether they would return next week.

It was noted, however, that their action today was less drastic than their cancellation of a session last November after heavy American raids in North Vietnam.



Associated Press



United Press International

**AT PARIS PEACE TALKS:** David K. E. Bruce of the U.S. arriving for yesterday’s session, to which Pham Dang Lam, top right, and Nguyen Van Tien were sent by Vietcong and North Vietnamese as deputies for top delegates.