

U.N. Body Urges Viet Admission

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The General Assembly voted 124-1 yesterday to ask that Vietnam's application for U.N. membership be reconsidered "favorably" in the Security Council, where the United States vetoed it November 15.

Ambassador William Scranton of the United States, who cast the lone dissenting vote, made clear that he would veto the application again on the grounds that Vietnam has failed to give the U.S. all available information about 800 Americans still listed as missing in action in the Vietnam war.

Scranton gave the same grounds for the veto he cast when the Vietnam application was first submitted to the council. Security Council approval is required before the assembly can accept a nation as a U.N. member.

Neville T. D. Kanakarathne of Sri Lanka, who introduced the assembly resolution, said of the U.S. position: "Whatever problems it may have at this particular time in accounting for the Americans ... are trivial in comparison with the great causes that are being discussed here ..."

Kanakarathne said he spoke on behalf of the 86 nations of the so-called nonaligned bloc in appealing to the United States "to reconsider the position that it has taken on this issue and to enable the Security Council when it meets again" to recommend Vietnam for admission to the United Nations.

Soviet delegate Mikhail Kharlamov said his delegation is "in favor of the Security Council immediately being convened again in order to consider the acceptance of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam into the United Nations and act on it."

Alluding to Scranton's concern for the families of the missing, Vietnam's U.N. observer, Dinh Ba Thi, made a connection between Vietnamese accounting for MIAs and U.S. aid in Vietnam's postwar reconstruction.

"The American families themselves are victims of the erroneous policy of their own government," he declared.

Thi said Vietnam had said several times it was ready to solve the problem and four times had remitted "the lists and remains" of Americans killed in the war.

He declared that if the problem of missing Americans has not been solved so far, that is due to "the attitude of the American government, which has shown no serious desire to solve this problem.

"As to the contribution of the American government to binding the wounds of war and to the reconstruction of the country," Thi said, "this is a problem of responsibility, conscience and honor which the American government cannot escape."

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