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Lack of Progress

U.S. Suspends Peace Talks Indefinitely

Paris

The United States yesterday declared an indefinite suspension of the Paris Peace Conference.

Ambassador William J. Porter told the Vietnamese Communists there would be no further meetings until they showed willingness for "serious discussions" on concrete issues spelled out in advance.

The Communists replied that he was posing "conditions we can never accept."

The rupture, apparently the most serious in the three years of the conference, came at the 147th session in the former Hotel Majestic near the Arc de Triomphe. It was announced by Porter in an opening statement described by a spokesman as having been "carefully prepared."

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Anticipating that the Communists, who had first turn this time, would repeat previous positions, Porter's prepared remarks began: "I should not conceal from you the fact that our side is very disappointed by your presentations of today."

Finding no "give" in their position, Porter announced the suspension in these words:

"As you know, President Nixon, at the request of the Congress, has declared next week as a week of national concern for our men held prisoner by you and your associates It would be a mockery of our concern for them were we to sit in this room with you and listen to more of your blackmail and dis-

tortions to the effect that the prisoner of war issue is an imaginary problem. Therefore our side does not agree to a meeting next week.

"As for meetings in the weeks that follow, we believe it would be preferable to await some sign from you that you are disposed to engage in meaningful exchanges on the various points raised in your and our proposals. Our side will be alert to signs of that nature which you may send through any convenient channel..."

The Communist spokesmen, usually serene, showed visible anger yesterday, repeatedly denouncing the Porter declaration as "a maneuver of sabotage."

Xuan Thuy, the North Vietnamese delegate, said at a curbside news conference that the Nixon administration has had "many occasions to settle the Vietnamese problem" but instead has prolonged the war and is using Indochina as a "testing ground for new weapons."

Next week's session, he added, would be the sixth meeting canceled by the U.S. "without a valid reason."

N.Y. Times Service

