

S A L E X A M I N E R 7 M A Y 7 0

Hanoi Warns on Paris Talks

Robert S. Boyd, Washington Bureau Chief of Knight Newspapers, is now in Hanoi, one of a handful of American newspapermen who have been able to obtain a visa to North Vietnam in recent years. His report is transmitted by the Chicago Daily News Service.

By Robert S. Boyd

HANOI — North Vietnamese officials have warned that the Paris Peace Conference might be broken off if President Nixon continues to escalate the war in Indochina.

The warnings came in interviews with Hoang Tung, editor-in-chief of the official Communist Party newspaper, Nhan Dan, and Ngo Dien, chief of the press department and official spokesman for the foreign ministry.

The interviews preceded yesterday's scheduled talks in Paris, the first since the United States went into Cambodia, at which Hanoi's top delegates failed to appear.

'Harmful'

Tung said it would be "useless" and even "harmful" to continue the Paris talks if the United States resumes bombing of North Vietnam.

Dien recalled when the talks opened in Paris, Xuan Thuy, chief North Vietnamese negotiator, told Averell Harriman, who then headed the U.S. team, "We cannot negotiate under threat of bombing."

Similar Hint

He added the Hanoi government has not decided yet to break off the talks but is waiting to see what Nixon does next.

A similar hint that the talks might be suspended was dropped in March by the Soviet ambassador to Paris Valerian Zorin.

At that time the threat appeared to be a trial balloon. North Vietnamese authorities let it pass in silence.

Now, however, the warning appears more serious.

Last Saturday the North Vietnam foreign ministry issued a statement saying the raids "will seriously affect the Paris conference on Vietnam."

'Cease Bombing'

Asked to explain the statement, Dien said:

"The Paris conference opened on condition that the U.S. cease bombing the North.

"We cannot negotiate under the threat of bombing. We said we would come to the conference if the U.S. stopped the bombing.

"Now they are conducting serious bombing raids against some sites in North Vietnam."

'Wait and See'

Asked if that meant the talks will definitely be broken off, Dien said: "We have not yet decided to do anything like that.

"We must see what Nixon Administration will do."

In a separate interview, Tung was blunter.

"Nixon's actions threaten the Paris talks," he said. "If he continues these actions it is useless to continue the talks."

Analogy

Asked to explain under what conditions North Vietnam would end the talks, Tung used an analogy.

He pointed to the windows of his office, which were shattered in a 1966 bombing raid, and said: "If Nixon breaks my window again, of course I would propose to withdraw my assistant in Paris (the press spokesman for the Hanoi delegation)."

And if the windows of Premier Pham Van Dong were broken?

"The I would support the decision to call back his representatives (Hanoi's negotiators) in Paris," Tung said.