



Guerrillas Talking Of 'Total Victory'

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Paris

CRAZY as it may seem in Washington, the American actions in Cambodia have stirred a wild elation on the other side. Paris representatives of the insurgent movements in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia are suddenly talking up the Chinese theory of winning a "total victory" over the United States.

A few leaders in North Vietnam, backed by Russia, continue to push for a political settlement. But in the heady atmosphere engendered by the Cambodian foray, they are having hard going.

The Chinese theory of "total victory" over the United States is old stuff. The basic idea is that American forces can be lured into extended ground combat on the Asian mainland. These forces will spread themselves thin holding onto occupied cities.

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THE TRANSFUSION of that idea to the guerrilla movements operating in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia took place at the Indochinese Peoples' Conference of April 24 and 25. The meeting was held in China and it brought together the chief Vietnamese insurgent leaders — Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho for the revolutionary government of South Vietnam, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the recently deposed ruler in Phnom Penh, for Cambodia, and Prince Souphanouvong for the Pathet Lao.

Prince Sihanouk in his speech to the conference stressed the line of never coming to terms with the United States. He said that "diplomacy, negotiations, conferences, and even friendly neutrality represent a mortal danger" and that only "armed combat could annihilate this danger."

Chau Seng, Sihanouk's representative here in Paris and a colleague at the conference, goes even further in pushing the Chinese line. "If the United States wants to clean out the Viet Cong sanctuaries," he said the other day, "they will find these sanctuaries everywhere — even as far away as Peking."

Though the Viet Cong, or provisional government of South Vietnam, are supposed in Washington to be the purest puppets of Hanoi, their representatives are also working the Chinese theme. The other day, Nguyen Van Tien, the number two man in their delegation to the peace talks there, observed: "You couldn't win fighting in South Vietnam. What makes you think you can win by spreading yourself thin over a much wider area? That just opens up holes for us behind your lines."

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MAYBE THIS is all bravado and propaganda, put on for an American journalist. But those North Vietnamese known to be interested in keeping negotiations alive are bestirring themselves to prevent the foreclosing of the negotiating option.

The presence of Premier Pham Van Dong at the conference in China is indicative. Presumably Dong, a leader with Moscow ties, was sent to prevent tipping the balance all the way in the Chinese direction.

Right now, the outcome of the maneuvering on the other side seems to be in doubt. The three chief North Vietnamese representatives in the Paris talks are all back in Hanoi for consultation. Almost certainly there is a question as to whether the Paris talks should be continued.