

U.S. Rebuffs Hanoi On Pullout Terms At Talks in Paris

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 17—North Vietnam invited the United States today to suggest a "reasonable deadline" for the withdrawal of its forces from South Vietnam since it had rejected the deadline of next June 30 that the Communist side had proposed.

David K. E. Bruce, the chief American negotiator at the Paris peace talks, told Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, that the United States was "prepared to negotiate a complete timetable for complete troop withdrawals as part of an overall settlement."

Mr. Bruce then asked: "What can you tell us about your intentions as far as North Vietnamese withdrawals from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are concerned?"

The 95th session of the talks, which lasted four hours, consequently ended in the usual way: American rejection of the unilateral withdrawal demanded by the Communist side.

Stephen J. Ledogar, the American press spokesman, estimated that North Vietnam had 175,000 to 200,000 troops in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He said that the United States had to have some idea of what Hanoi intended to do about these troops if it was to agree to withdraw its forces.

Without explicitly acknowledging that they had sent troops outside North Vietnam,

U.S. Rebuffs Criticism by Soviet of Bombing Policy

By HEDRICK SMITH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—The United States today rebuffed a stern Soviet denunciation of American bombing policy on North Vietnam and urged Moscow to persuade Hanoi to stop shooting at American reconnaissance planes.

Although some American officials sought to play down the significance of the declarations, it was privately conceded that the exchange was reminiscent of the tart polemics during arguments over the American bombing of the North in 1967 and 1968.

The State Department declared that the Soviet Government had misdirected a statement yesterday that took the

Hanoi's delegation insisted that the Vietnamese people had the right "to combat the aggressors in any part of Vietnamese soil."

U. S. Discounts Proposal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—John F. King, a State Department spokesman, said today that the United States Government saw nothing new in Mr. Thuy's comments about troop withdrawal.

"We remain ready," Mr. King said, "to negotiate an agreed timetable for complete troop withdrawal as part of an over-all settlement. We had in the past suggested a period of 12 months for withdrawal of all foreign forces from South Vietnam."

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rare step of sharply attacking President Nixon for what Moscow termed his "direct threats to resume bombings" of North Vietnam at his news conference last Thursday.

"We think the Soviet statement was misdirected," John F. King, a State Department spokesman declared. "It should have been addressed to North Vietnam along with the suggestion to cease attacks on unarmed U. S. aircraft and start negotiating seriously in Paris."

Retaliation Threatened

At his news conference, President Nixon declared that if Communist forces "increase the level of fighting in South Vietnam" as American forces withdraw, he would retaliate by ordering bombing of North Vietnamese targets.

The Soviet statement asserted that Moscow would "draw the appropriate conclusions from the new provocations and threats," but American specialists saw no immediate indication that Moscow was preparing to provide Hanoi with new military support. Rather, the Soviet statement seemed to imply a souring of relations with Washington on other issues in response to the firm Nixon line on Vietnam.

In spite of Mr. Nixon's warnings, the expectation among Administration specialists is that the next year in Vietnam will bring an upsurge in terrorism and efforts to disrupt the South Vietnamese elections, rather than any major new military defenses.

U.S. Force May Stay

Hints are also being dropped that the United States may decide to leave a force of American troops in South Vietnam as a bargaining measure for the American prisoners of war held by Hanoi. The program of Vietnamization—turning the war over to the Saigon Gov-

ernment—does not cover the freeing the prisoners. American officials have noted that in their proposals of last September, Communist negotiators treated the final date of American withdrawal and the prisoner question as related issues. For this reason, some officials are understood to be advocating that Washington maintain some force in Vietnam until all prisoners are released.

Despite Hanoi's continuing denials that it had accepted continuation of American reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam as part of the 1968 understanding that ended American bombing of the North, the Nixon Administration contends that it has evidence that Hanoi has been acknowledging the American right of reconnaissance by its actions. The Administration asserts that 95 percent of American reconnaissance missions are not interpreted with and interprets this as evidence that Hanoi generally — if reluctantly — acquiesces in the missions.