

Nixon Move Denounced at Paris Talks

By JOHN L. HESS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 8 — President Nixon's announcement of continuing troop withdrawals was described today by the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong as "a maneuver aimed at disguising the prolongation and widening of the war."

As the Paris conference resumed following a three-week lapse, the Communists insisted that the war would continue until the United States set a date for total withdrawal.

In his announcement last night, Mr. Nixon refused to set such a date, saying it would hamper American bargaining power and would allow the enemy to plan his attacks for a time for greatest vulnerability.

Today's session here, the 108th of the conference, had been postponed one week by the Communists in protest at the bombardment of North Vietnam, and another week by the Americans and their allies, without explanation.

The meeting was dominated by debate over the Nixon speech and a new proposal by Saigon for a prisoner exchange, which the Communists spurned.

Offers to Negotiate

The Saigon representative, Pham Dang Lam, offered to negotiate the repatriation or the internment in a neutral country of "able-bodied prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity." David K. E. Bruce of the United States expressed strong support for the proposal.

The proposal was "a hypocritical and perfidious maneuver," declared Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, delegate of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. A Communist spokesman added at a news conference later that if the United States had accepted Mrs. Binh's proposal last September for a cease-fire and a nine-month period for an American withdrawal, the prisoner question "would already have been settled."

The spokesman said that Senator Vance Hartke, the Indiana Democrat who was here this week, "understood our sincere desire to settle the question of the captured soldiers and that we have no desire to prolong their detention."

"But the crucial question is that the parties agree on a date for total withdrawal of American troops," the spokesman asserted.

The Communist delegates derided President Nixon's report of gains in Laos as "upside down." A North Vietnamese spokesman demanded: "Hang-

ing to the greased skids of helicopters, how could they count the bodies of their adversaries?"

Little Stir in Saigon

By ALVIN SHUSTER

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 8—President Nixon's announcement of the withdrawal of 100,000 troops by December created little stir in Saigon today.

Vietnamese interviewed said that most people realized that the writing had long been on the wall, and hence they were not surprised.

The United States Ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, and President Nguyen Van Thieu discussed the figure within the last month, and American officials said that the two men had reached full agreement on the new withdrawal rate of about 14,000 troops a month.

There was no official word from Mr. Thieu. The only official comment came from the Foreign Ministry, which said that the pullout was "based on the growing strength of the Republic of Vietnam armed forces." It also expressed gratitude to "the United States people and Government for their

contribution to the fight against the common enemy."

Some Vietnamese expressed surprise that the comment came from the Foreign Ministry, noting that on previous occasions similar communiqués had been issued by the Presidential Palace.

Opposition politicians were divided on the withdrawal. Ly Quy Chung, an anti-Government Deputy, said that there was nothing to be excited about because that doesn't mean that the United States has decided to disengage itself from Vietnam.

"The war in Indochina will still go on until an indefinite time," he said. "This side with the United States weapons and the other side with Communist weapons."

Another Opposition Deputy, Ngo Cong Duc, said he was pleased by the pullout because "it means that by December Mr. Thieu will see his supporters drop by another 100,000."

Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, chairman of an antiwar and anti-Government group called Women's Right to Live Committee, said that "We will not be able to restore full sovereignty until all United States troops have been withdrawn."

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For later developments see
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