

U.S. Bids Hanoi Discuss Own Pullout

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PARIS, May 6—The United States said at the Vietnam peace talks today that there could be no negotiations on a total withdrawal of American troops unless the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops was also included.

North Vietnam, which has refused to acknowledge the presence of its troops in South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia, denounced as "absurd" the long-standing American proposals for a mutual withdrawal.

These exchanges, at the 112th weekly session of the talks, appeared to dampen the faint hopes raised in some quarters last week by the phrasing of some Communist positions.

The United States negotiator, David K. E. Bruce, expressed interest today in that phrasing and asked for clarification.

He referred to a statement by Xuan Thuy, the North Vietnamese delegate, who had proposed last week to discuss "today, tomorrow or any other day" a date for complete American withdrawal, the security of withdrawing troops and the release of prisoners.

"We think," Mr. Thuy had added "that if the discussions on these questions arrive at positive results, all the troops participating in the war can then rapidly regain their homes."

Direct Reply by Bruce

In a direct reply today, Mr. Bruce said:

"If this means that you are now prepared to withdraw North Vietnamese forces from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, then I believe we can make serious progress here toward an honorable and lasting negotiated settlement.

"We would be most interested in any clarification of your intentions in this regard, either here or in any meeting where discussions might be conducted fruitfully."

At another point in his prepared speech, Mr. Bruce said that if North Vietnam wanted to continue the fiction that it had no troops in South Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos, he would "not debate the point, provided that these forces cease being there and we have reliable

assurances that they will not return."

Thanh Le, a spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation, said afterward in response to a question that there had been no secret contacts between the two sides to explore the Communist statements of last week. A question on secret meetings brought a "no comment" from the American delegation.

Expanding on an allusion to the dollar crisis in Europe made

earlier by Mr. Thuy, the North Vietnamese spokesman also stated that the huge American outlays in Vietnam were the cause for the "ceaseless devaluation" of the currency there.

Mr. Le charged that the United States was forcing Western Europe to accept dollars inflated to finance the war.

Mr. Bruce told newsmen that today's session showed that "the United States is for negotiating peace and Hanoi is for continuing the war."