

# Hanoi Blames U.S. In 'Saigon Comedy'

PARIS — (UPI) — North Vietnam said today the United States had turned the South Vietnamese presidential elections into "a comedy."

"The White House is putting on a comedy in Saigon," said Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's chief negotiator, as he entered the 127th session of the Vietnam peace talks.

"It is staged and directed by the U.S. Embassy. All that is needed to see it is an airline ticket to Saigon — the rest is free. There is no program because the outcome is known in advance."

After the session, Thuy told newsmen the 128th meeting of the talks, due next Thursday, was postponed because of a national holiday in North Vietnam. The talks will resume Sept. 9, he said.

Any hopes this session of the deadlocked conference might make some headway were set back when the Viet Cong's chief negotiator, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, failed to attend for the second week in a row.

A spokesman said she was still "taking a rest."

Another Viet Cong representative, Dinh Ba Thi, also attacked the elections in his speech inside the meeting.

"There can never be genuine elections in South Vietnam as long as the country remains under the illegal occupation of the American expeditionary corps and as long as a group of warmongers is kept in power in Saigon as the instrument of U.S. domination and repression," he said.