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U.S. Says Nothing of New Vietnam Talks

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WASHINGTON, April 4—The United States, which for years actively pursued a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war, has said nothing about any new talks at this time of disaster for the Saigon Government and top officials see little prospect that diplomacy can play a useful role now.

As a result of diplomatic contacts with various countries, the administration has concluded that Hanoi, seeing a military victory within its grasp, would not agree to any kind of negotiations short of arranging the surrender of the Saigon Government.

Officially, the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong still negotiations, but Secretary of State Kissinger is said to believe that the conditions they attach to such talks virtually rule out any serious discussions.

In recent days, for instance, Vietcong representatives have demanded as conditions for negotiations that the United States end its military support for the Saigon Government and that "the clique" of President

Nguyen Van Thieu "should be overthrown so that a government in favor of peace, independence, democracy and national concord could be set up in Saigon."

Thus, in justifying the Communist offensive, the Vietcong representatives have said that it was necessary to overthrow Mr. Thieu and his followers to make it possible to implement the Paris accord and set up a government that meets "the aspirations of the population."

Privately, Mr. Kissinger and his aides see little prospect of any way of saving the Saigon Government short of an unexpected turnaround on the battlefield. Mr. Kissinger, who negotiated with the North Vietnamese for more than three years, believes that they never show any interest in talking so long as they are winning.

For this reason, as well as out of a desire not to annoy the Thieu Government, the United States has made no efforts to reopen a direct discussion with the North Vietnamese. Mr. Kissinger believes that if the United States had the right to become involved mili-

tarily, Hanoi might be more interested.

The Saigon Government's position has been to favor the resumption of direct talks with the Vietcong that were broken off by the Communists in Paris last year, but Saigon wants the negotiations to be unconditional.

One option that has not been tried was the reconvening of the Paris international conference on Vietnam that led to the endorsement in March, 1973, of the accord by Russia, China, Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, Poland, France, Britain, as well as the four signatories, the United States, North Vietnam, the Vietcong and Saigon.

But this conference can be reconvened only if both the United States and North Vietnamese agree, or if six participants do. A sampling of opinion in January, prior to the offensive, convinced the United States that there was no support for reconvening the meeting, which it was felt would only end up in polemics between the sides.

The United States has also refused so far to draw the Soviet Union publicly into the

situation, as it had in the 1972 spring offensive by Hanoi. In 1972 President Nixon made it clear that he expected the Soviet Union to act as a restraint on Hanoi, implying that the planned Moscow summit meeting might otherwise be in jeopardy.

Washington now believes the Soviet and Chinese have no significant influence on Hanoi's actions and that there was little point in trying to link them to any negotiations on the current situation.

The United States, which has tried to get negotiations started to end the Cambodian war, also sees no prospect of a negotiated settlement there unless the Phnom Penh regime is able to hold out beyond the start of the rainy season in July.

The former Cambodian leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, had said earlier from his exile in Peking that he would only negotiate once President Lon Nol was out. But now that Lon Nol has left Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk still refuses to negotiate. He said yesterday that "under no circumstances" would he deal with the new Government of Saukam Khoy.