

U.N. Envoy Says Vietnam's Aim is Unity

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 12—A special United Nations envoy who spent three weeks in Hanoi meeting with top Vietnamese leaders said here today that unification of the North and South was the "final aim."

The envoy, Raymond Aubrac, said unification would take some time and he did not seem to rule out the possibility that North and South Vietnam would exist separately for a year or longer.

Mr. Aubrac, a French engineer on the staff of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in past years has served as a channel to Vietnamese leaders for the Johnson and Nixon Administrations.

His latest mission was undertaken for Secretary General Waldheim and was concerned with United Nations humanitarian help for North Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government in the South, he said during a news conference.

His personal impression of the political scene was formed after many talks, including a meeting with Premier Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam and Nguyen Co Thach, the top-ranking South Vietnamese representative in Hanoi.

Mr. Aubrac characterized the

two regimes as closely linked but different in their political basis.

"In the Provisional Revolutionary Government there were and probably still are representatives of the Catholics, Buddhists and some others with political connotations different from the North Vietnamese," he said.

A number of Western European delegates here have been saying in recent days that the South seemed to be a distinct political entity and, as one representative put it, no "mere puppet."

Common Market members have individually informed the new authorities in Saigon that they were ready for diplomatic recognition and have been saying here privately that the separation of North and South might go on for at least a year. Some saw a possibility of two Vietnams entering the United Nations.

Mr. Aubrac said there was no precise way of knowing the intention of the administrations.

United States officials here continued to insist that it was still unclear who controlled the South and what kind of government would emerge. Some Europeans agree that it is too early to tell, and point out that North Vietnamese divisions remain in the South and that

Hanoi officials are politically active in Saigon.

Mr. Aubrac declared that authorities in both the North and South had clearly stated that they would like assistance from all parties and would accept such help from individual nations or through the United Nations. He said they were insistent that such outside aid should not impair their own freedom and independence, which suggested they did not want large groups of foreigners to come in to supervise distributions of assistance.