

Asians See Hanoi Mood 'Promising'

KUALA LUMPUR—North Vietnam has asked foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, now meeting here, not to make public announcements of their current discussions of future relations with North and South Vietnam, ASEAN conference sources said yesterday.

ASEAN officials interpreted the request as a possible attempt by Hanoi to insure that no fixed association positions on relations with Indochina countries become known and create difficulties in future talks on cooperation.

Delegates to the meeting said if Hanoi's intention was to prevent difficulties arising in relations with Indochina, the plea was "promising" for future negotiations between ASEAN countries and Indochina.

Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak opened the talks with an offer of friendship to Indochina and an invitation to the Communist countries to join ASEAN in working toward regional peace.

Tun Razak said the real lesson of the Indochina events was that the key to the future security and stability of the region — and of individual states — depends on a constructive response to the new realities. He did not spell out what the constructive response involves.

In Hanoi, authoritative North Vietnamese sources said a delegation of South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government will travel to Bangkok shortly. The report appeared to confirm an earlier statement in Kuala Lumpur by Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Chonhavan that the PRG would send a delegation to "recover South Vietnamese property," presumably a reference to goods brought by fleeing officials of the ousted Saigon government.

Thai Interior Ministry officials said an estimated 40,000 Vietnamese refugees who have lived in northeast Thailand for more than two decades after fleeing the anti-Communist government in South Vietnam will be repatriated within a year.

Cambodian Threat

BANGKOK — Heavily armed Khmer Rouge forces in Cambodia's Trat Province near the Gulf of Siam have given Thailand seven days to pull the border line back half a mile, the Bangkok post reported. Cambodia has accused Thailand of usurping the territory during the past five years.

Recognition

Britain recognized the new South Vietnamese government and Foreign Secretary James Callaghan said the British hope to reopen their embassy in Saigon as soon as possible.

Japan, India, Sweden, Italy and several other nations have already recognized the new government. The United States has not. Sources in Paris said French recognition is imminent.

Three delegates from the PRG were admitted to the assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Former South Vietnamese Ambassador to Bonn Nguyen Van Thiep went into hiding following threats by Vietnamese students who support the new government.