

# Thailand and North Vietnam End Talks on Ties

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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 29 —Thailand and North Vietnam today completed a week of talks on normalizing relations and announced that a few problems "need further discussion."

A brief joint statement, issued as a 13-member North Vietnamese Government delegation departed for home, said that a second round would be held in Hanoi.

The talks here marked the first direct contact between the governments of the two countries, whose troops fought each other in Laos and South Vietnam during the Indochina war.

The North Vietnamese delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Phan Hien, arrived May 21 and was originally scheduled to stay only three days. The departure was postponed several times, as

further meetings were held, arousing speculation that the negotiations were going badly.

Before leaving today, Mr. Hien said that the talks, held in an "atmosphere of frankness," had contributed to normalization of relations. The joint Thai-North Vietnamese statement said the two sides had "agreed on many important matters of mutual interest."

In speaking with reporters, the leader of the North Vietnamese delegation declined to specify what remained to be discussed.

But there was speculation that these included payment of war reparations to North Vietnam by Thailand for the damage caused by American bombing from Thai bases; the return of aircraft flown here last month by fleeing pilots of the fallen South Vietnamese Government; repatriation of about 40,000 Vietnamese refugees who came to northeast Thailand during the French Indochina war, and the withdrawal of about 25,000 American troops and 350 planes from

Thailand.

The Thai side is believed to have raised the questions of the North Vietnamese military presence in Laos and Cambodia, and North Vietnamese support for Thailand's own small-scale Communist insurgency.

Earlier this week, the North Vietnamese delegation paid a courtest call on Premier Kukrit Pramó, and afterward the Premier said that he was confident that diplomatic relations would soon be established.

The North Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister referred to the long estrangement between the two countries as he left for Hanoi, saying that "for 30 years, our relations have not been very close—we have many things to talk about and we need some time."

Asked for his opinion of Thailand's role in the Indochina war, Mr. Hien replied: "That is all in the past. Let bygones be bygones. We are talking now about the normalization of our relations. That means we are looking at the present and the future."