

2 Vietnams Reported in Unity Steps

TOKYO, June 12—A high-ranking North Vietnamese official told Japanese newsmen that the political parties and armed forces of North and South Vietnam have been merged, Tokyo newspapers reported today from Hanoi.

The newspapers said the official, who was not identified by name, made the disclosure when he met with a group of Japanese newsmen visiting Hanoi yesterday.

The official was quoted as saying, "No accord has been reached yet on the timetable of reunification between leaders of both sides but on certain problems the reunification has already been completed."

He singled out these problems as the merger between Hanoi's ruling Workers' Party and South Vietnam's People's Revolution Party and the alignment of the armed forces of both countries.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency Tass, in a dispatch from Saigon, said today that fighting is still continuing in South Vietnam.

Tass said there were exchanges of fire, often at night and sometimes in daylight. "The struggle in defense of the achievements of the revolution continues," Tass said.

Fugitive officials of the former Saigon regime received a new appeal to give themselves up for political re-education yesterday, 11 days after the deadline expired for the registration of former civilian and military officials. Authorities appealed to those still in hiding to surrender.

The appeal was believed to be a sign that the new authorities were reluctant to resort to the massive use of force to hunt down officials and officers still on the run.

What Japan hopes will be the final round of negotiations for a \$17.2 million grant to North Vietnam and the establishment of embassies in Hanoi and Tokyo will begin Friday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

Although North Vietnam and Japan agreed in 1973 to establish diplomatic relations, talks over the opening of embassies bogged down over Hanoi's demands that Japan recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam while Japan still maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of Vietnam.

Medical, dental and pharmaceutical colleges in Saigon reopened today, Hanoi's Vietnam news agency reported in a broadcast, monitored here.