

HANOI HINTS CHANCE OF A U.S. OIL DEAL

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PARIS, Dec. 8—North Vietnamese spokesman said today that the possibility of American exploration for oil off Vietnam was discussed at a weekend meeting with a United States Congressional subcommittee.

The spokesman said "no details were discussed," but American participants in the talks got the impression that the Vietnamese would be interested in a "mutually profitable" oil deal once relations with the United States had been normalized.

American companies were interested in petroleum prospecting off South Vietnam for years before the end of the war, and had been negotiating concessions with the Saigon Government of former President Nguyen Van Thieu. France has also shown interest.

According to an American participant, the weekend talks went extremely well and many of the congressmen were encouraged to recommend lifting the United States trade embargo against Vietnam.

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