

A 'National Assembly' for All Vietnam

Paris

North Vietnamese Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap says general elections will be held in 1976 in both North and South Vietnam for the establishment of a national assembly for all of Vietnam.

"We will have one national assembly for the whole country and thus one central government for the whole Vietnam," Giap said in an interview on the French state-owned television system. The interview, broadcast yesterday, was made in Cuba where Giap led a Vietnamese delegation to the Cuban Communist party congress from December 16 to December 22.

"Vietnam now is reunified," Giap said. "The question now is to reunify it in terms of the state administration. By unanimous agreement, we will organize general and democratic elections in 1976."

Giap said the late President Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam "always had led the Vietnamese people, from south to north, during the war for independence," and the Vietnamese people always desired to live in "independence, liberty, unity and socialism."

The 63-year-old Vietnamese war leader said there is much to do in Vietnam to rebuild its economy after 30 years of conflict and to make it prosperous.

Associated Press