

JAN 22 1976
**McGOVERN ASSERTS
VIETNAM WANTS TIES**

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (Reuters)—Senator George McGovern, back from trips to Saigon and Hanoi, said today that Vietnamese leaders appeared eager to open peaceful relations with the United States and other countries.

The South Dakota Senator said at a news conference, "All indications are that the leaders are ready today for relations."

Senator McGovern, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, spent three days in Hanoi and two days in Saigon during a three-week tour that also took him to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

He urged that the United States not delay unduly in opening relations with Vietnam, saying the American experience with Cuba showed there was nothing to be gained from continuing to isolate the country.

He suggested, however, that any United States move could await all - Vietnam elections sometime in the next six months.

Senator McGovern said the Vietnamese did not make United States reconstruction aid a condition of establishing relations, although officials had said they took seriously the pledge in the Paris accords to help rebuild the country.