

# Vietnam Takes Independent Stand in Anti-U.S. Meeting

## Colombo, Sri Lanka

Vietnam made it clear that it would follow an independent policy toward the United States yesterday at the summit conference of non-aligned nations as North Korea and Panama assailed the American presence in their two corners of the world.

Vietnam Premier Pham Van Dong said his nation wants to develop economic ties with capitalistic countries and normal diplomatic relations with the United States.

Dong's speech was one of the most moderate and conciliatory toward the West in general and the United States in particular on a day in which North Korean Premier Pak Sung Chul and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos turned the fifth nonaligned summit meeting into an anti-American forum.

It also marked Vietnam's first

appearance at an international gathering since the end of the Indochina war last year.

The North Korean premier urged the 85-nation conference to demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

"Unless this danger of war is removed in advance, new war, including nuclear war, may break out again in Korea, which would be expanded to a war of Asian and worldwide scale," Pak said.

Pak asserted that the United States has 400,000 troops in South Korea — ten times more than Washington says are there and 1000 nuclear weapons. The U.S. government has never given any information on its nuclear weapons in Korea.

General Torrijos sought the conference's endorsement of his

demands to end U.S. control over the Panama Canal Zone.

"The greatest reason for unhappiness in our country is the presence of a colonial enclave located in the heart of our homeland with the pretext of operating the Panama Canal," he declared.

In contrast, the Vietnamese premier's half-hour speech dealt primarily with economic affairs, and he emphasized that Vietnam will adopt an independent policy toward both East and the West.

"On the international plane, it is necessary to establish, maintain, and diversify our relations with all countries, primarily intensifying those among developing countries," he said, telling the world that Vietnam does not want to remain isolated in the Communist camp.

"In a world as it is, we should develop economic relations with developed capitalist countries provided that these relations conform to our independence, sovereignty and needs for development," he added.

Dong made several critical references to the United States, but only on issues for which there is wide support in the nonaligned movement.

For instance, he supported North Korea's demand for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from South Korea, he sided with the Arab countries' "struggle against U.S. imperialism and Israeli aggression," and he endorsed Sri Lanka's demand that the new U.S. military installation on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean be dismantled.