

Viet Bid to Join U.N.

United Nations

Vietnam, reunified after more than a quarter-century of war, applied yesterday to join the United Nations. A U.S. veto is expected.

North and South Vietnam were formally unified last month with Hanoi as their capital, and since then the government has made strong overtures for ties with the United States.

Early this month, Vietnam released what were said to be the last 49 U.S. citizens trapped in the country after the war. Premier Pham Van Dong declared at the meeting of nonaligned nations in Colombo, Sri Lanka, this week that Vietnam is seeking economic ties with capitalist countries and normal diplomatic relations with the United States.

Observers here predicted President Ford would not permit Vietnam's entry into the world organization as long as the sensitive question of Americans missing in action remains unresolved.

More than 900 U.S. military men remain unaccounted for since the Vietnam war ended. Washington has insisted no progress can be made on normalizing relations with Hanoi until their fate becomes known. The issue could be sensitive for Mr. Ford in an election year.

The Vietnamese application signed by Premier Pham was submitted by Dinh Ba Thi, Hanoi's permanent observer at the United Nations.

It came a year after applications for U.N. membership from both North and South Vietnam were twice vetoed by the

United States in retaliation for the Security Council's refusal to take up the application of South Korea.

The 15-nation council, on which the United States and four other major powers hold veto power, must approve any application for membership before it goes to the General Assembly. There was no indication when the council would take up the Vietnamese application.

Associated Press

Vietnam Moving 500,000 People North From Saigon

Hong Kong

About half a million Vietnamese, most of them from the Saigon area, are to be resettled in new economic zones in the former North Vietnamese province of Song Be, the Vietnamese News Agency said yesterday.

The agency, monitored here, said there are at present 38 new villages in the new zones, 750 miles north of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh city.

Song Be was a southern province of North Vietnam before it became unified with the south.

So far more than 118,000 people, mainly from Ho Chi Minh city, have resettled there, it added.

Reuters