

U.S. DECIDES TO VETO VIETNAM'S REQUEST FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP

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SCRANTON DISCLOSES POSITION

Says Failure of Hanoi to Account for All Missing Americans Shows It Lacks Commitment to Peace *NY Times*

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—President Ford directed the United States delegation today to veto Vietnam's application for membership in the United Nations.

The decision to block the application, disclosed here by William W. Scranton, the United States representative at the

*Vietnamese statement and exchange
of diplomatic notes, page 16.*

United Nations, provoked an angry response from Vietnamese officials awaiting a meeting tomorrow of the Security Council's admissions committee.

Mr. Scranton said after meeting with the President that Hanoi's continued failure to make a full accounting of Americans still listed as missing in the Vietnam war showed that the Communist Government lacked the commitments to peace and humanitarianism necessary for membership in the General Assembly.

Campaign Called Factor

In a statement issued at United Nations headquarters, Vietnamese officials charged that President Ford's "real concern is not on American MIA's and their families but on the vote in this election campaign."

The Vietnamese, accusing the United States of "an arrogant and hostile policy," also made public confidential notes exchanged between Washington and Hanoi in an effort to renew negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between the two capitals.

A White House spokesman said late today that "the publication of these confidential exchanges raises a question as to whether there was ever a serious willingness to negotiate."

Request Blocked Last Year

Membership in the world body, requir-

ing unanimous approval of the 15-member Security Council, was blocked last year by the United States when North Vietnam sought entry. The new application by the recently reunited Vietnam was to be considered at a meeting tomorrow of the Council's admissions committee, but the American position appeared to assure its ultimate rejection.

Mr. Scranton told reporters the veto

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decision was based solely on Hanoi's "brutal and inhumane treatment of the families" of several hundred Americans still unaccounted for by Vietnam two years after the end of United States involvement in Indochina combat.

"As far as I am concerned and as far as the President is concerned, we have not attempted to play politics at the United Nations," Mr. Scranton said. "Politics played no part in the decision."

The head of the United States delegation said there had been "nothing to indicate in any negotiations" that Hanoi was

prepared to make a satisfactory accounting of the missing Americans.

Vietnamese spokesmen in Paris and at the United Nations said that diplomatic notes exchanged since March had sought to renew discussions on both an accounting of the missing men and on the question of reconstruction aid promised by the United States in the Paris truce accord of 1973. The spokesmen said an Aug. 27 note from Hanoi, proposing that a meeting, had not been answered by Washington.

"It will be clearly seen that the U.S. Government has intentionally pursued an

arrogant and hostile policy toward Vietnam, that it has made a volte-face and deceived public opinion," the Vietnamese statement contended. John Carlson, the deputy White House press secretary, stressed late today that the United States "will have nothing to do with war payments or reconstruction aid until they give a full accounting of MIA's."

"They want aid first," Mr. Carlson added. "We want an accounting first."

The White House spokesman also said that the President was "studying the implications" of the publication of the diplomatic notes. He said it was a "preliminary feeling" that Hanoi "must have been searching for a pretext to publish this material."

Mr. Carlson confirmed that the United States had not replied to the Aug. 27 note, but said the delay had been related to Hanoi's disclosure a few days later of the identities of 12 Americans killed in Vietnam.

Frederick Brown, a State Department spokesman, called the dozen names a "token list" and said they did not constitute "any reason to move on the normalization of our relations."

Carter Meeting Noted

The Vietnamese statement said: "It is no secret to anyone" that Mr. Ford had sought to bar Hanoi's entry to the United Nations for domestic political purposes.

Diplomatic sources at the United Nations said that Western allies had refrained from pressing for United States approval of the application because, in their view, it would have been unrealistic to expect Mr. Ford either to acquiesce to or approve the application in an election year.

At the same time, diplomatic sources familiar with Vietnam's attitude said that some delegations had counseled Hanoi to delay its application but had been told Vietnam had been patient and intended to press its case.

Mr. Scranton disclosed his instructions in a conversation with reporters outside the White House. The disclosure coincided with the notation by an official of Mr. Ford's campaign organization that Mr. Carter was scheduled to meet this week with relatives of Americans unaccounted for in the war.

Mr. Ford surprised onlookers when he appeared personally last Tuesday to read a statement before television cameras reiterating what his spokesmen had said earlier, that diplomatic relations with Vietnam would depend on "a full accounting without further delay" of the missing Americans.

Mr. Scranton and White House officials said today that the United States attitude had been consistent. "Our position all along," Mr. Carlson said, "has been that a matter of first importance is an accounting of our MIA's."