

U.S., Vietnam Set New Paris Talks

Washington

The United States and Vietnam will open preliminary talks Friday in Paris on the possibility of normal relations, American officials said yesterday.

The talks will be the first between the two countries since the Paris peace agreement was signed almost four years ago.

In a related development, Vietnamese officials said an application by Hanoi for admission to the United Nations will come up in the U.N. Security Council on Friday and a vote is expected Monday.

The Ford administration has said it will veto the Vietnamese application if there is no substantial progress toward obtaining an accounting of the 800 Americans listed as missing in action in Vietnam.

President-elect Jimmy Carter has expressed support for this position but said that the Ford administration's inability to obtain an MIA accounting is one of its most embarrassing failures.

The Paris talks are aimed at finding out whether there is any basis for substantive negotiations on normalizing relations.

Officials said it is doubtful that any significant progress toward this goal can be made before the Carter administration takes office ten weeks from now.

The chief Vietnamese objective in the talks is securing U.S. war reconstruction aid. The United States promised such assistance in the 1973 Paris agreement but the Ford administration has said that Vietnam disqualified itself from receiving U.S. aid because of its invasion and conquest of South Vietnam 18 months ago.

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