

# U.S. Vetoes Vietnam Bid To Join U.N.

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United Nations

The United States yesterday vetoed the application of Vietnam to become the 146th member of the United Nations.

As expected, Ambassador William Scranton cast the 18th U.S. veto in U.N. history, carrying out Washington's determination to keep Vietnam out of the world organization until Hanoi gives an accounting of 800 American servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam war.

The veto went against appeals from 32 member nations and a petition from 20,000 Americans to give Vietnam membership.

The Security Council vote was 14-to-1 in favor of recommending Vietnam for admission by the General Assembly, but the negative U.S. vote killed the resolution sponsored by ten council members, including the Soviet Union, China and France.

Scranton said the United States does not believe Vietnam, on its record concerning the missing Americans, is qualified to carry out the obligations of a member under the U.N. charter regarding human rights.

"I appeal to the current applicant to give attention to the human rights provisions of the charter and to abandon trading on the sorrow of the families of missing men," Scranton said.

"I can assure them that normalization of relations would quickly follow."

Both the "Provisional" South Vietnamese government and North Vietnam applied in July, 1975, for U.N. membership. The applications were vetoed by the United States in August, 1975, and again when they were reconsidered in September, 1975. The two zones were formally united as one Vietnam in February, 1976.

Thirty-two delegates spoke in the Security Council debate, appealing to Washington to relent and permit the unified Vietnam to enter the world organization.

In addition, a group called the Appeal for Reconciliation, organized by the American Friends Service Committee, sent messages to Scranton and to President-elect Jimmy Carter saying 20,000 Americans have signed petitions calling for U.S. acceptance of Vietnam's membership.

Scranton denounced "cynical posturing" by the Soviet Union and China in asking the United States to withhold its veto.

"It comes with singular ill grace," he said to the Soviet Union, "for a power that has cast 110

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vetoed to lecture us in righteous tones. And 51 of those vetoes were used on membership application."

He recalled that China blocked membership for Bangladesh, even though it is a major Asian country, "because it did not like the way in which it gained its independence." He noted that China later relented and agreed to let Bangladesh become a member.

Britain, Pakistan and Panama were the only council members which did not ask the United States to stay its veto. But all three voted for Vietnam's admission, leaving the United States in diplomatic isolation on the issue.

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