

U.S. VETOES HANOI BID FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP

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Scranton Demands Information on Americans Missing in War

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 15—The United States today vetoed the admission of Vietnam to the United Nations on the ground that Hanoi had failed so far to give an accounting of the 800 American servicemen who are still officially listed as missing in action in the Vietnam war.

The vote in the Security Council was 14 to 1, with the United States using the veto for the 18th time. William W. Scranton, the chief United States delegate, denounced the Vietnamese for failing to hand over information he said they possessed, saying:

"We cannot help but conclude from the Vietnamese refusal to provide a fuller accounting that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam persists in its attempts to play upon the deep anguish and the uncertainty of the families of these men in order to obtain economic and political advantage."

U.S. Hints at Reconsidering

Mr. Scranton was apparently alluding to the Vietnamese stand reiterated last Friday in Paris—that the United States had an obligation to help repair the damages of the war. The United States delegate insisted that Hanoi's denial of information reflected unwillingness to abide by the United Nations Charter's requirements for membership, which include observance of human rights.

He added, however, that should Hanoi demonstrate cooperation, the United States would reconsider its position about Vietnamese membership.

Dinh Ba Thi, Vietnam's chief observer, charged after the vote that the United States was engaged in a "maneuver" and said it was impossible to meet any demand for a "complete list of those missing in action."

He said Vietnam was doing its best to cooperate and expected the United States to live up to its commitment, under the 1973 Paris cease-fire agreement, to help with postwar reconstruction.

He spoke of the newly resumed talks between the United States and Vietnam

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in Paris as meetings that are due to continue. He was stinging in his attack on the Ford Administration, but his emphasis on the possibilities of progress appeared to suggest that Hanoi hoped for better relations with the incoming Democratic administration.

The United States stand was attacked bitterly in the Council by a dozen supporters of Vietnam. It is expected that they will now ask the General Assembly to take up the matter with the idea of winning approval for a resolution asking the Council to reconsider the application.

The United Nations Charter requires the approval of the Security Council approval for any new membership.

The decision to press for a vote was made by the 11 countries, including France and Sweden, that had jointly sponsored the membership application. They were said to have decided to act speedily after Vietnamese representatives told their third-world supporters earlier in the day that they wanted a decision.

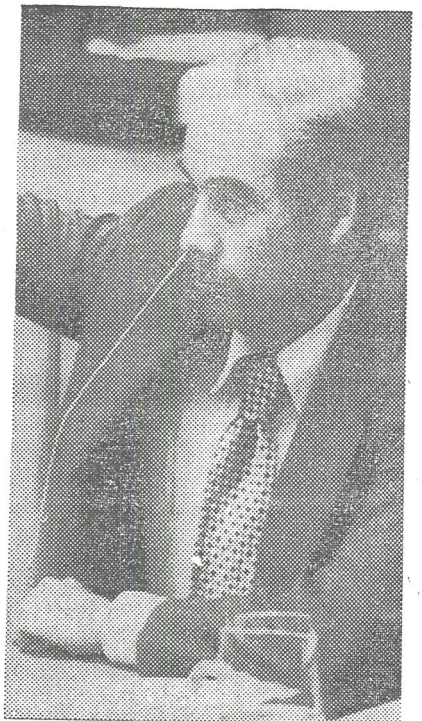
Earlier, diplomats here had thought that the Council discussions would move along slowly, waiting for developments from talks in Paris between American and Vietnamese diplomats, who met last Friday to begin exploring the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations.

When the diplomats adjourned without setting a date for the next meeting, the Vietnamese and their supporters apparently felt it was to their advantage to wait no longer.

Backers of Vietnam have made it no secret that they regard the vote as a means of underscoring the isolation of the United States on the issue of Vietnamese membership in the United Nations. The United States stood alone in 1975 when it used its veto to block the admission of North Vietnam and South Vietnam. The two Vietnams were not formally unified until July of this year.

In preventing the admission of the two Vietnams, the United States argued that the applications should not be acted upon while the Council members were at the same time declining to consider the long-standing application of South Korea.

This year, the South Korean campaign was not pursued by the United States. Instead, this country based its position



Associated Press

Ambassador William W. Scranton casting U.S. veto to the admission of Vietnam to the United Nations.

on the issue of the missing American servicemen.

When the Vietnamese request for admission came up again in September, the Ford Administration announced that the United States would continue to use its veto until there was an accounting given on the missing Americans.

At the time, the Vietnamese accused the United States of twisting the membership question into an election-campaign issue and of using the issue of the missing Americans for domestic political purposes.

However, shortly before the Council was to act—with the American veto a certainty—an agreement was reached to postpone the decision until after the November election.

The Vietnamese apparently acquiesced in the hope that their application would be approved once the election was out of the way. The Ford Administration continued to insist that no commitment had been made. In his campaign speeches, Jimmy Carter also said that Hanoi should be blocked from the United Nations until it provided satisfactory data on the Americans unaccounted for.

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