

Waldheim Presses for Action on Vietnam

By ROBERT ALDEN

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 15 — Secretary General Waldheim today sharply increased his pressure to have the Vietnam issue brought before the United Nations by making public a strongly worded letter he wrote last week to the President of the Security Council.

In the letter Mr. Waldheim openly took issue with the Chinese position, expressed in a letter from Huang Hua, the Chinese delegate, to the Secretary General last week, that "the Vietnam question has nothing to do with the United Nations."

Mr. Waldheim's letter, written on the same day that the Chinese letter was received, said:

"Now that other efforts to bring the war to a halt seem to show little promise of success within a reasonable time, I feel strongly that the United Nations can no longer remain a mute spectator of the horrors of the war and of the peril which it increasingly poses to the international peace."

New Course of Action

In writing the letter and then making it public, Mr. Waldheim was taking a course in his pursuit of peace that differed sharply from those of his predecessors.

U Thant, during his 10 years in office, never forced an issue when the matter was opposed by any permanent member of the Security Council.

Dag Hammarskjöld might have worked behind the scenes to bring about an agreement. But he would not have tried to bring public pressure to bear.

But Mr. Waldheim has ex-

pressed the view that public opinion is a vital factor and that it plays an important role in foreign policy. By publicizing his letter he appeared to be openly trying to marshal public opinion on his side to have the United Nations intervene in Vietnam.

Path to Disaster

In the letter The Secretary General said that he was "deeply concerned" that the United Nations, "created as a result of a world war in order to safeguard international peace and security in the future, appears to have no relevance" to what is now happening in Vietnam.

"This indicated an attitude which, if it persists could all too easily lead to the wholesale disaster which the United Nations was set up to prevent," he said.

Mr. Waldheim said that he did not underestimate the difficulties that faced the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular,

in dealing with the Vietnam problem. But he suggested that the members of the Security Council should consult and consider what measures could be taken.

In his letter to the president of the Security Council, a rotating post filled this month by George Bush of the United States, Mr. Waldheim, also challenged the traditional position of the Soviet Union. The United States had placed the Vietnam issue on the agenda of the Security Council in 1966 but the matter was not considered, in the main because of Soviet objections.