

# An Angry Reaction by Red Delegates in Paris

SFChronicle Washington Post Service MAY 10 1972

Paris

the harbor mining.

North Vietnam yesterday condemned the American mining of its ports as "the most serious escalation of the war of date" and said "the Vietnamese people will never accept President Nixon's ultimatum" for ending

In long, similarly worded statements issued by their respective delegations to the suspended peace talks, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong skirted most matters of substance in what was

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## RED REACTION

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generally regarded as a holding action pending further assessment of the American moves.

The only allusion to the U.S. action's effects on China and the Soviet Union was contained in the Hanoi statement which said President Nixon had attacked "not only North Vietnam but also "the right of free navigation of (other) countries in their relations" with it.

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Neither statement mentioned specifically the President's offer to end the action and pull out all American troops within four months in return for release of American prisoners of war and an internationally supervised cease-fire.

Hanoi delegation officials said the chief Paris negotiator, Xuan Thuy, will fly home today for urgent consultations. They added pointedly he would go via Moscow, indicating he might meet high Soviet officials during his stopover.

Hanoi officials said the delegation's special adviser, Le Duc Tho, will remain in Paris, for possible resumption of the stalled peace talks.

French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann said his country "can only deplore once more that things have reached this pass" and asked out loud "where does this escalation lead?"

"Convinced that a political solution remains possible" after his meeting Monday with Le Duc Tho, the Hanoi Politburo member who has conducted secret negotiations with the U.S. since 1968, Schumann reiterated his longstanding brief in favor of a neutral Indochina.

Schumann said that on Monday Tho had brought up the formation of a "three-component government" in Saigon.

That phraseology is used by the Communists to designate a transitional government which would include Viet Cong, members of the present administration minus President Nguyen Van Thieu, and other political forces inside and outside South Vietnam dedicated to "peace, democracy, independence and neutrality."

Both the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese have long favored such a government to allay worries of an outright Communist takeover in Saigon.

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