

# Hanoi's Decision -- No Major War Moves

By George McArthur  
Los Angeles Times

## Saigon

The North Vietnamese Politburo has almost certainly made a momentous decision to shelve at least temporarily any major military moves in Indochina in favor of sorely needed economic reconstruction.

This is the message that Western experts profess to read in the spectacular outpouring of rhetoric which has surrounded the just concluded session of the North Vietnamese National Assembly.

While the major speeches pledged continued support for the war in South Viet-

nam, it was equally evident that military plans have been sharply trimmed.

The hawkish voice of Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap was not even heard at the Assembly session.

In specific terms, many crystal ball types in Saigon now agree, this means there will be no major offensive this year as many had earlier feared.

It means that Hanoi's military machine will be supported only enough to maintain the fighting at something like the present level for the foreseeable future. This level of activity — designed to erode the military, economic and political strength of the South Vietnamese — would be raised

only if a deteriorating situation in Saigon presented some clear promise of quick or easy success.

In brief, Hanoi's party boss Le Duan, quite likely influenced by Russia and China, has won or imposed Politburo acceptance of a plan which would deprive South Vietnam of the fruits of peace while Hanoi gets on with the "Socialist renewal" in the north.

In the ironic ways of Indochina, Hanoi appears to have ratified the view of South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu, who has often stated the view that the Paris cease-fire agreements would lead to a situation in which there was "no peace but no war."