

# VIETCONG CHARGE DROWNING OF 1,200

Spokesman in Paris Accuses  
U. S. of a New Atrocity

By **DREW MIDDLETON**

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Nov. 20—The Vietcong delegation charged today that United States troops had drowned about 1,200 South Vietnamese men and women early this year at the coastal village of Balangan.

The charge was made at the news conference after the 43d session of the Vietnam peace talks. Duong Dinh Thao, spokesman for the Vietcong provisional revolutionary government, made the accusation.

The delegation also circulated what it described as an eyewitness account of mass slayings by American troops at Songmy, South of Danang, on March 16, 1968. The letter, signed by a woman identified only as Can, described rapes of village women, burning alive of children and the bayoneting of pregnant mothers.

The letter is undated. Mr. Thao said that the contents had been disclosed in Hanoi shortly after March 16, 1968, but had gone unnoticed in the hectic period after the Vietcong's offensive.

## Lodge Cites Inquiry

The United States chief delegate, Henry Cabot Lodge, on his return to the American embassy at the end of the session, was told of the assertions and asked if this and other reports were an embarrassment to his position.

"Well, as you know," Mr. Lodge replied, "this is being intensively investigated by the appropriate authorities in an effort to get at the truth and, of course, such a report must cause real concern."

At the negotiations themselves, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the foreign minister of the Vietcong group, said that the events at Songmy were only one of "thousands and thousands of crimes perpetrated by the United States in South Vietnam."

Mr. Thao offered the events at Balangan, a village in Quangngai Province, as an example.

Between Jan. 11 and Feb. 19 of this year, he said, more than 8,200 United States, South Viet-

namese and other allied troops carried out a sweep in the area, killing 200 people.

The Americans, he continued, "then assembled more than 11,000 persons to take them to the concentration camp."

## Charges Boats Were Used

In the month of March, 1968," he said, "the Americans and their puppets took 1,200 of these persons in three groups and made them perish at sea. These 1,200 persons were killed in the following way: They were placed in large boats which were towed out to sea by warships and there they were sunk by the warships which veered sharply and quickly enough to tip over these boats, sinking them."

Asked why no mention of this had been made at the time, Mr. Thao said that his delegation had published a document in March. He said that he could not be definite on the date of the incident but that "we denounced it at the time."

The Song my letter is presented as a personal account from the victims' viewpoint of events in the village on March 16, 1968.

The troops, the letter said, attacked the villagers' underground shelters with machine guns and hand grenades. The mother of a year-old child, Mrs. Vo Thi Phu, was shot dead through the neck while nursing the baby, the writer said.

"G.I.'s screaming 'Vietcong! Vietcong!' covered the mother and child with lime and set them on fire. The G.I.'s then went to the shelter of Mrs. Mui. They forced her and another woman with her, Mrs. Mot, to emerge, raped them and then shot them dead, together with their four children."

During the formal session, Mr. Lodge, in what was probably his final appearance as head of the United States delegation, warned the other delegations that last week's demonstrations against the war in the United States would not alter the administration's policy.

"President Nixon will not be pressured into departing from the course which he has set," Mr. Lodge told the conference. "Those who live in authoritarian countries should try to understand that last week's events in Washington were a demonstration of the right of free speech. You should also understand that the evidence shows that the great majority of the American people support the President's effort for peace."

# LODGE QUILTS POST AT VIETNAM TALKS; HINT TO HANOI SEEN

Walsh Resigns as Deputy  
—Steps Viewed as Signal  
That U.S. Is Discouraged

## NO SUCCESSORS NAMED

But Officials Deny Intent Is  
to Downgrade Stalemated  
Negotiations in Paris

By **JAMES M. NAUGHTON**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—

Henry Cabot Lodge and his chief deputy have resigned as United States delegates to the Paris peace talks in an apparent signal to North Vietnam that the negotiations will be downgraded unless they become more productive.

Today the White House announced the resignation of Mr. Lodge and Lawrence E. Walsh, who had been designated as President Nixon's personal representative but had not attended the talks since June. Both resignations will be effective Dec. 8.

No successors were named immediately. The White House said Philip C. Habib, a career diplomat serving as chief adviser to Mr. Lodge, would become acting head of the delegation.

White House View

Ronald L.  
House

# Texts of Resignations and Nixon Replies

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP) — Following, as made public by the White House, are the resignation letters of Henry Cabot Lodge as chief of the United States delegation at the Vietnam peace negotiations in Paris and of Lawrence E. Walsh as his deputy, with their replies from President Nixon:

## Lodge Letters

### TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

Herewith I submit my resignation as your personal representative to head the U.S. delegation at the Paris Meetings on Vietnam. I do so because personal matters at home require my attention.

I strongly support your efforts to negotiate an end to the war. You have left no stone unturned. It is sad that the other side has flatly refused to reciprocate in any kind of meaningful way.

It has been an honor to be your representative here and I thank you for it.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY CABOT LODGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cabot:

It is with great respect

that I accept your resignation as head of the U.S. delegation at the Paris Meetings on Vietnam. I could have asked for not better representative, and will miss your counsel and efforts as we seek to negotiate a just peace in Vietnam.

You have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done all that imagination and dedication to peace could accomplish.

Please accept my warmest thanks for your service to the nation in this demanding job.

It is reassuring that you have agreed to serve as an adviser so that I will continue to have the benefit of your experience and wisdom on Vietnam.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

RICHARD NIXON

## Walsh Letters

### TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with my earlier conversations with Secretary Rogers, I should like to resign my office as personal representative of the President to the Paris Meetings on Vietnam.

I deeply appreciate the

honor of this office and the opportunity to have worked for you and with Ambassador Lodge and the other members of the U.S. delegation in supporting your efforts to seek an honorable peace in Vietnam.

In view of the manner in which these meetings are now being conducted by the other side, no purpose would be served by my continuing to hold this office. If these conditions should change, you may be sure that I shall be glad to help in any capacity.

Respectfully,  
LAWRENCE E. WALSH

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Ed:

It is with regret that I accept your resignation as the Deputy Head of our Delegation to the Paris Meetings on Vietnam. You can justly be proud of your efforts in behalf of peace during your service there. I am glad to know that we can count on your help in the future.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

RICHARD NIXON