

First Red Walkout

At Paris Talks

Associated Press

Paris

North Vietnam led a Communist walkout from the Vietnam peace talks yesterday and the future of the conference remained in doubt.

The Viet Cong delegates joined in the walkout.

The Communist side said a new meeting of the peace talks "will be held" next Thursday. But the United States and South Vietnam

reserved decision on meeting then.

The North Vietnam walkout yesterday was said to be a protest against recent United States bombings and other "extremely serious acts of war" against North Vietnam.

But it also appeared to many here that North Vietnam and the Viet Cong wanted to underline their in-

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dependence in dealing with the United States at a time when there were rumors that President Nixon and Chinese leaders may have discussed Vietnam in their summit meeting in Peking.

TALKS

North Vietnam and the Viet Cong have insisted that China is solidly behind them in their peace proposals and supports their contention that the war must be settled at the Paris conference. This perhaps has been their answer to suggestions that the Chinese and Americans might be trying to settle the war behind their backs.

North Vietnamese spokesman Nguyen Thanh Le bit-

terly assailed the dinner toast made in Peking Monday by Mr. Nixon, saying his talk of peace "was remarkable for its hypocrisy." If Mr. Nixon wants peace in Vietnam, Le said, "he must respond positively to our peace proposals here in Paris."

Le recalled that the President said he was thinking of "all the children in the world" and wondered "what legacy" will be left to them. Le said Mr. Nixon had "given them a present of seven million tons of bombs."

"When Nixon speaks of the sovereignty of other countries, why doesn't he withdraw his troops from South Vietnam and cease supporting the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu."

The United States and South Vietnam charged that the Communist delegates violated long established conference procedural rules in walking out of a meeting before all delegates had finished speaking. U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter told newsmen afterward: "That was quite a session. It was not exactly the 'Serious negotiations' that they told us they wanted us to come back for."

The meeting lasted 17 minutes, the shortest of the 145 sessions held since the talks began Jan. 25, 1969.

The United States had canceled last week's meeting as a protest against a Communist-dominated anti-war meeting in Versailles Feb. 11-13.