

'Realistic'

(Fuller account
filed POWs.)

Hanoi's Plans For the South

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N. Y. Times Service

Hanoi, North Vietnam

In a series of interviews, several Hanoi officials have taken pains to say they want to reassure the United States that North Vietnam has no intention of pressing a political or ideological claim on the South if President Nguyen Van Thieu is ousted.

Colonel Ha Van Lau, who has been a delegate to the Paris peace talks, and Hoang Tung, editor of Nhan Dan, North Vietnam's official newspaper, acknowledged during more than 15 hours of discussions through interpreters that the war in South Vietnam was militarily stalemated.

But they insisted that no serious negotiations to end the fighting were possible as long as the United States maintained its support of the Thieu government.

FUTURE

The main point of the interviews was the makeup of a future government in Saigon.

"If you, in the United States, don't want a socialist government," Tung said,

"how can we force it on you? So we understand that everybody in South Vietnam doesn't have the same desire that we do. And if not 100 per cent, there should be at least 50 or 60 per cent who want to have a certain system — only then will it be possible to have it."

Tung added that the situation in the South would be ideal if "we, the Vietnamese, could smash everything — the United States and Saigon troops and foreign mercenaries."

REALISTIC

"But we are quite realistic and we know to do that would take a much longer time," he added. "If it were up to me, I would like to see the whole of Vietnam unified and building socialism, but we are realists."

"We know that in South Vietnam there are certain other forces. Not only Thieu, but other people. The Communists and people who are doing the resistance work must find a way to live with other people. Only in this way can we be in conformity with objective reality."

The theme that it is possible to guarantee the neutrality and independence of a caretaker government in Saigon came up recurrently in seven meetings with Lau during a two-week stay in North Vietnam that ended March 17.

The colonel, considered by western diplomats stationed here to have access to Premier Pham Van Dong, said more than once: "We are not in a rush for reunification. In principle, we think that North and South Vietnam should be unified and one, but we have to settle issues on reality as well as on principles."

Hanoi's Stand In Paris

Paris

North Vietnam is waiting for the United States to take the initiative in resuming the suspended peace talks here, Hanoi's spokesman said yesterday.

Nguyen Than Le said "It is up to the American side to remedy its error" in suspending the talks indefinitely last week. He said his delegation has made no proposal for a new meeting and indicated that it would make none.

Le's comments followed a statement from North Vietnam's foreign ministry Tuesday night demanding resumption of the talks and calling on "brother socialist and peace loving countries" to put pressure on the U.S.

William J. Porter, the American delegate, told the Communists last week that he would await "some sign from you that you are disposed to engage in meaningful exchanges on the various points raised in your and our proposals."

The American delegation is understood to feel that there may not be any significant shift between now and the presidential elections in the United States. But the absence of change of the Communist side is not being taken to mean that the conference will be called off at least until then.

N.Y. Times Service

DIFFERENT

"Our governments are very different," he said "In North Vietnam there is socialism and in South Vietnam they want neutrality. We have to respect that."

The interviews were carefully summarized and placed on the record before this journalist left Hanoi. It was made clear that the two men were speaking for the North Vietnamese government. It was also made clear that the men hoped an account of interviews would be published in the New York Times.

Over all, the interviews seemed to indicate a further softening of the recent North Vietnamese and Viet Cong negotiating positions. On February 3, the Viet Cong in Paris presented a revised two-point "clarification" to the Viet Cong's seven-point proposal of July, 1971, that was widely regarded as

more conciliatory to the present Saigon regime.

THIEU

The clarification again called for the resignation of Thieu — although a demand that the United States be directly involved in his ouster was dropped — and also said that, accomplishing this, the Viet Cong would then enter directly into negotiations with the remnants of the current Saigon administration.

The basic seven points of July, 1971, called on the United States to halt Vietnamization, set a date for a total and unconditional withdrawal of all troops and support units, and end U.S. support of Thieu pending the establishment of a caretaker government that favored peace, independence, neutrality and democracy and would organize general elections.