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Paris Talks

Start Again--

Charges Fly

SF Chronicle

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Paris

The Vietnam peace conference resumed yesterday after a month's break. The session was fruitless but there now is a firm prospect of new secret talks between the United States and North Vietnam.

Each side accused the other of aggression and of a refusal to negotiate seriously. Each gave the other another week to change its stand with an added threat by the U.S. to suspend the talks again.

But Nguyen Minh Vy, Hanoi's spokesman, announced that Le Duc Tho, the Politburo member who has been North Vietnam's secret ne-

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gotiator in the past, would return soon. The ordinarily cautious Vy added: "It is probable that there will be private meetings."

In accordance with custom, the American side refused to comment on private sessions but expressed interest in what Tho might have to offer.

PORTER

William J. Porter, the chief American negotiator, said, "I sure hope that when Le Duc Tho arrives here he's got better than what they produced in there today."

Porter opened the session by declaring:

"The question for you to answer today is whether you are prepared, as a first item of business, to discuss measures which will put an end to

this invasion. We are willing to engage immediately in the discussion of such matters. I propose specifically that you agree to end your invasion and commence the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam. Obviously, if concrete progress on that score can be achieved, there could be a corresponding reduction in the level and intensity of our retaliatory response to that invasion."

Porter said he is ready to meet again next week if such time is needed to get an answer. "You will understand, however," he said, "that in the light of the situation created by your invasion of South Vietnam, it will not be practical to hold meetings if you continue to refuse to deal with the substance of the present invasion and general problems of

peace, including prisoners of war and those missing in action."

The U.S. had suspended the talks March 23 on the ground the other side was avoiding substantive discussions, and engaging solely in propaganda.

Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's negotiator, retorted, "The Vietnam problem is the problem of the U. S. aggression and the Vietnamese people fighting against aggression. The United States' claim about invasion of South Vietnam by North Vietnam is absurd."

Thuy went on to demand that the U. S. honor its 1968 commitment to halt the bombing of the North, and that it abandon the Vietnamization program and respond to the Viet Cong's Seven-Point Peace Program. This calls essentially for com-

plete and unconditional American withdrawal from Vietnam and the removal of the Saigon administration.

Later, Thuy warned that if the U. S. continued Vietnamization, the process of building up the South Vietnamese army to replace withdrawing American forces, as well as efforts to maintain President Nguyen Van Thieu in power and to intensify the attacks on the North, "it will be defeated by the rigorous counter thrusts of the Vietnamese people of the two zones."

Thuy asked if the U. S. is prepared to halt those actions and, in the manner of Porter, said he agreed to meet next week to hear his answer. But having insisted on the resumption of the conference, he did not adopt Porter's threat of suspending it again.