

Hanoi's Bombing Demand

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Paris

A North Vietnamese official yesterday renewed Hanoi's demand that the United States halt the bombing of all of North Vietnam.

He continued to maintain that the American raids are in violation of the 1968 agreements halting the bombing and opening the way to the peace talks here.

Interviewed for more than two hours at the villa in Suburban Choisy-le-Roy that houses his delegation, the official, who requested anonymity, said: "Don't try to make the American people believe that Nixon can go on with the bombing and have the Paris peace talks resume. That's dangerous."

In mid-April, shortly after the American raids in the Hanoi and Haiphong regions — the first such attacks since 1968 — the North Vietnamese demanded that the bombing halt. However, they agreed to the resumption of talks two weeks ago without it.

'SERIOUS'

Discussing the current bombing, the official said:

"The situation is very serious. We maintain that they must stop the bombing and return."

Asked whether the bombing would have to end before the talks — halted by the American delegation last week — could be resurrected, the official waved the question away, saying, "it's not a reality yet."

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegations have walked out of one session of the weekly meetings and skipped another, but in recent months they have stressed their willingness to negotiate at any time, any place.

ATTITUDE

"No matter how disastrous the bombing is for our people, it brings about no change in our attitude," said the North Vietnamese official interviewed yesterday. He summarized that attitude as follows:

"In order to end the war

in Vietnam, Mr. Nixon must end his policy of Vietnamization, stop the bombing and negotiate seriously in Paris in response to the seven points."

The seven-point proposal, offered by the Viet Cong last July, calls for a combined military and political settlement involving a change in the Saigon government, the withdrawal of all American military and support units, and the return of all prisoners of war.

The Nixon administration responded, in effect, with an eight-point proposal in January that called for withdrawal of American and allied forces within six months of an agreement, a prisoner-of-war exchange, a general ceasefire throughout Indochina and the resignation of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam a month before internationally supervised elections.

RESPONSE

"Nixon says we never responded to his eight points," the North Vietnamese official complained. "In fact, we did respond." He said it came when the Viet Cong offered two key proposals as a clarification of its seven-point plan. The clarification, for the resignation of Thieu, said that after his ouster the

Viet Cong would enter into negotiations with the remaining segments of the Saigon government, instead of establishing a government of accord first.

"Our two points remain on the table," the official said. "The White House says we don't want to negotiate — yet it is their turn to respond."

"I tell you that these two points are very flexible," he added, emphasizing the last word.

"Even if they expand the war," the official said, "and prolong it in order to prevent the defeat of Vietnamization, it is hopeless. And now Nixon is bombing North Vietnam, and certainly nothing has come from that. He must come back to negotiations. But in order to have serious negotiations, he must stop the bombing and return to the Paris talks as usual."