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Viet Cong Turn Down Nixon Offer

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Paris

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the Viet Cong delegation to the Paris peace talks, yesterday denounced President Nixon's address on Vietnam as a "speech of war" and categorically rejected his new proposal.

In a 90-minute interview at the Viet Cong's villa near here, she described the offer as even more demanding than the eight-point proposal made by the White House on January 25.

On Tuesday the North Vietnamese negotiators here declared that they would never accept Mr. Nixon's military "ultimatum" and called his decision to mine North Vietnam's harbors and step up the air war "the gravest step in escalation of the war to date."

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The President, in announcing his decision to mine harbors and block transportation in North Vietnam, called for an immediate cease-fire in Indochina and the release of all American prisoners of war in exchange for the end of all acts of force throughout In-

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dochina and the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam within four months.

"I suppose some commentators are saying there is something more to negotiate in comparison with Nixon's eight-point proposal," Mrs. Binh said. "but as a matter of fact his conditions are even stiffer than those raised before."

She noted that he had called in January for a withdrawal and cease-fire to take place after the settlement of outstanding political and military issues.

"And now what does Mr. Nixon say?" she continued. "That while we are in a military situation which is favorable to our struggle, he calls for an immediate cease-fire. This means we must drop our weapons before the problems are solved and we must release all the prisoners. And only after these things are carried out, will Mr. Nixon decide on a troop withdrawal."

Turning to the key Communist demand at the Paris talks — that President Nguyen Van Thieu be forced out and that a new coalition government be installed in South Vietnam — Mrs. Binh said Mr. Nixon's new proposal did not even raise the political issue.

There had been specula-

tion that Mr. Nixon's suggestions, which amounted to an offer to withdraw all American forces in South Vietnam unilaterally, would be met with interest by the Communist side.

But Mrs. Binh asked rhetorically: "What has Mr. Nixon said recently? He said he is resolute in his support of the regime of President Thieu and he is also trying to consolidate that support by means of bombs and shells. He is trying to force us to accept the Thieu administration without discussion."

She noted that the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese had rejected the offer the President made in January as "but a plan to carry out his Vietnamization policies" and asked: "How can I say there is something new or reasonable in this one?"

"I would like to stress," she went on, "that in light of the situation — that is, the fact that the failure of the Vietnamization policy is obvious to everybody — the way Mr. Nixon posed the problem is very unreasonable."

Mrs. Binh also took exception to an American official's suggestion that during secret negotiations the North Vietnamese were summarily vetoing proposed members of a new coalition

government that would either replace Thieu or work with him.

"That is not the truth," she said. "Since Mr. Nixon has not yet accepted our principles of respect for self-determination in South Vietnam, how can there be discussions on the concrete personalities to participate in a new administration?"

Such discussions are widely believed to have taken place during the secret meetings between Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief negotiator in Paris, and Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security.

Earlier yesterday, in a brief statement to newsmen at Orly airport, Tho declared that Kissinger had "completely distorted the truth" about their meeting here last week.

In his speech Mr. Nixon said the North Vietnamese had responded to the Kissinger visit with "bombastic rhetoric and a replaying of their demands for surrender."

Tho was at the airport to see off Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, who was returning to Hanoi. Thuy told newsmen that "contrary to what Mr. Nixon states, the Vietnamese people do not at all dream of humiliating the U.S. nor imposing a surrender upon it."

NYTimes version filed POWs