

HANOI WARNS U.S. ON AERIAL CHECKS

But Bruce, at Talks, Insists
Flights Will Continue

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Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Nov. 19—North Vietnam warned the United States today that it would continue to oppose reconnaissance flights over its territory and the United States made it clear that it had no intention of abandoning such flights.

The exchange took place at an otherwise perfunctory session of the Vietnam peace talks at the French Government's International Conference Center here. In a statement afterward Nguyen Than Le, North Vietnam's press spokesman, said that if "the Nixon Administration continues to make flights in violation of the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the people and the army will hand out the punishment they deserve and Mr. Nixon will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences."

During the session, David K. E. Bruce, the chief American negotiator, said that it had always been clear that the United States would continue reconnaissance flights after it ended the bombing of North Vietnam on Nov. 1, 1968.

Use of Force Denied

"At the time," he said, "the United States agreed to stop all bombing and acts involving the use of force over North Vietnam. Aerial reconnaissance is not an act involving the use of force. Reconnaissance flights are essential to the safety and security of our forces in South Vietnam."

The United States has often said that the bombing was halted under a tacit accord that the flights could continue and that North Vietnam would, among other actions, lessen attacks on cities. Hanoi has consistently denied the existence of such an agreement.

The exchange at the peace talks was occasioned by the downing of an unarmed American reconnaissance plane by North Vietnamese antiaircraft first last Friday. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird then warned that the United States would take appropriate action to protect its planes.

Both sides agreed to meet next Wednesday instead of Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. It was the only reported agreement of the day.