

# Hanoi Rejects POW Plan

Examiner News Services

PARIS — North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong negotiators today rejected President Nixon's call for the transfer of all prisoners of war to neutral Sweden and said Nixon's move was a "maneuver" to cover up his "war crimes."

The rejection was contained in press statements by spokesmen for the Hanoi and Viet Cong delegations to the Vietnam talks.

Both delegations said the problem of war prisoners will be discussed only when Nixon sets a firm date for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

## 'War Crimes'

Nguyen Thanh Le, spokesman for the Hanoi mission, said "the alleged question of war prisoners raised constantly by Mr. Nixon is but a maneuver aimed at covering up his crimes of aggression and his countless war crimes, and to justify his obstinate refusal to set a reasonable deadline for the withdrawal of all American troops."

Duong Dinh Thao, the Viet Cong spokesman, said Nixon's latest offers to solve the war prisoners issue was "a machination" and a "maneuver."

The Hanoi mission's statement recalled that at last Thursday's session of the peace talks, North Vietnamese negotiator Xuan Thuy suggested that discussions

—Turn to Page 6, Col. 3

—From Page 1

begin immediately on a deadline for withdrawal of United States and other foreign allied troops from South Vietnam.

Then, he said, the conference can "take up the question of guarantees for the security of withdrawing U.S. soldiers and the question of freeing captured soldiers."

The White House announced yesterday that Nixon had noted the Swedish offer "with great satisfaction" and added, "the President would hope that Hanoi will move promptly to negotiate an agreement on this issue to take advantage of this humanitarian offer on the part of the Swedish government."