

U.S. Women Stand Vigil At Peace Talks in Paris

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PARIS, May 27—More than 100 American women whose husbands or sons are missing in action in Southeast Asia stood silently outside the building where peace in Vietnam was being discussed today.

The women were apparently interested in a North Vietnamese demand that the United States fix a date for withdrawal as the price for discussing the release of American prisoners. But the American delegation to the talks, denouncing this position as an attempt "to bargain with emotions," held to its counterdemand that North Vietnam announce similar measures to withdraw its forces from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Inside the former Hotel Majestic, at the 114th session of the Vietnam peace talks, nothing happened today to advance the day when American prisoners will come home.

The United States has announced that 1,612 of its forces were missing in action in Southeast North Vietnam, South Vietnam or Laos.

Women Seek Guarantees

The women represented 145 of the missing men, 84 of them missing over North Vietnam during air missions. The wives and mothers were part of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Joan Vinson, the league's national coordinator, said, "We would like to get a guarantee that if a withdrawal date is set by the United States all the prisoners of war held by North Vietnam, the Vietcong, Pathet Lao and their allies would be released prior to that date."

The group, which was held back today by police barriers, is trying to see both Communist delegations during its four-day stay here. But Duong Dinh Thao of the Vietcong said it was "useless" since his delegation's position was well known. Nguyen Than Le of North Vietnam, said his delega-

tion was too busy but referred the women to Hanoi's permanent representative in France.

No Outright Guarantee

While giving no outright guarantee that the prisoners would be freed, the North Vietnamese and Vietcong have nonetheless made their position clear.

At today's meeting, Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, declared:

"Only after the Nixon Administration has set a date for the rapid and total withdrawal from South Vietnam of U.S. forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, can other questions, including the question of captured military personnel, be easily and rapidly settled."

Mr. Le, while denying that any private contact between the American and North Vietnamese delegations had taken place, renewed the offer by Mr. Thuy to meet with David K. E. Bruce, the American chief representative, in private to consider any American proposal for a date of withdrawal. Mr. Bruce is in Washington for consultation and was represented today by Philip C. Habib, his deputy.

Stephen Ledogar, the American spokesman, declared that if Hanoi "did not try to bargain with their emotions," it could end all the doubts of the women outside as to the fate of their men. Each of the women wore a badge with her name and address and the date when her husband or son was reported missing.

Mrs. Vinson's statement indicated some shift was taking place in American public opinion toward the conditions laid down for freeing the prisoners. Backing Mrs. Vinson, Mrs. Jean Macdaniel, of Greensboro, N.C., said she did not think the prisoners would come back before a withdrawal date was set and added: "I think we need to change direction and adopt a new strategy."