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# VIETCONG OFFER TO TRADE P.O.W.'S FOR PULLOUT IN '71

Communist Negotiators in  
Paris Talks Present a New  
Seven-Point Plan

## BASIC DEMANDS STAND

Total American Withdrawal  
and Removal of the Saigon  
Government Demanded

Text of Vietcong proposal  
is printed on Page 2.

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Special to The New York Times

PARIS, July 1 — The Vietnamese Communists announced at the peace talks here today that they were ready to release all war prisoners they hold in North and South Vietnam by the end of this year if all American troops are withdrawn by then.

The offer was made as part of a new seven-point peace plan, presented by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the Vietcong delegation. The chief American delegate, David K.E. Bruce, said the proposal would be studied.

The plan included the two basic Communist demands, total American withdrawal and the removal of the present South Vietnamese Government but it wrapped them in the most detailed and what was considered the most attractive package presented at this conference since the first meeting of the four parties in January, 1969. — the North Vietnamese, the Vietcong, the Americans and the South Vietnamese.

### Hanoi Gives Full Support

Xuan Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese delegate, voiced full support for the seven-point plan. He said it would "create conditions for the United States to get out of the war in security and honor."

Today's development came a week after the arrival here of Le Duc Tho, a senior member of the ruling group in Hanoi and officially a "special adviser" to Mr. Thuy. At the time of his arrival, Mr. Tho said he had no new proposals.

In response to questions today, Nguyen Than Le, the spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation, said Mrs. Binh had received instructions from the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and had consulted with the North Vietnamese.

### Session a Short One

Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's foreign affairs adviser, is expected here next week. Mr. Le said Mr. Tho would confer with Mr. Kissinger if the latter asked for a meeting.

"Le Duc Tho had something in his pocket after all," Stephen Ledogar, the American spokesman, remarked. "But whether the matter is of substance or is designed to confuse debate remains to be seen."

Mr. Bruce suggested — and Mrs. Binh agreed — that today's plenary session, the 119th of

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the peace talks, be a short one followed by a week's adjournment to give time for study of the plan.

Its most attractive feature was said to be the offer for simultaneous liberation of prisoners and American troop withdrawal.

"The two operations will begin at the same date and will finish at the same date," the proposal said.

Up to now, the Communists had offered merely to begin immediate discussions on prisoners as soon as the United States set what they considered a reasonable date for withdrawal.

Today the Communists, in effect, set a six-month deadline for withdrawal of American troops "and those of the other foreign countries in the United States camp," in return for which they said they would respect the same deadline for releasing "the totality of military men of all parties and the civilians captured in the war (including American pilots captured in North Vietnam), so that they may all rapidly return to their homes."

The first two points of the plan, in taking up the military and political aspects of a settlement, were said to indicate more clearly than before that the simultaneous troop withdrawal and liberation of prisoners did not depend on a resolution of the political problem in Saigon.

The first point called on the United States to put an end to Vietnamization of the war and to withdraw totally from South Vietnam "troops, military personnel, arms and war material of the United States and other foreign countries in the American camp and to dismantle the American military bases in South Vietnam without posing any condition whatsoever."

If the deadline set by the United States is in 1971, the Vietcong proposal went on, the parties would immediately agree on security for withdrawing forces and on freedom of all military personnel and civilians captured in the war.

Duong Din Thao, the Vietcong spokesman, said this ap-



Associated Press

David K. E. Bruce, U.S. delegate to Paris peace talks, leaving yesterday after Vietcong gave plan.

plied only to those men held prisoner in North and South Vietnam. The United States is also holding North Vietnam responsible for men captured in Laos and Cambodia.

### All Inclusive Prisoner Clause

The freeing of prisoners would apply also to North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces held in South Vietnam and habitually referred to by the Communists as "patriots." South Vietnam has set the figure at 37,616, including 8,601 North Vietnamese, but Mr. Thao referred to "hundreds of thousands" of Vietnamese languishing in jails and camps.

The second point called on the United States to respect the right of self-determination in the South by withdrawing support for "the warlike group now in power in Saigon directed by [President] Nguyen Van Thieu" and by halting "all maneuvers, including the deceitful maneuver of elections tending to keep in power this puppet, Nguyen Van Thieu."

"By various means," the plan went on, political, social and religious forces that aspire to peace and national concord will form a new government and the Vietcong will immediately enter into talks with it for the formation of a wide government "of national concord" that would last until elections were called.

Mr. Thao refused to specify the "various means" by which the present Government should be replaced. He said his side was showing flexibility in this respect, but he appeared to rule out the elections in August for a new assembly and in October for a new president as the way to do it.



### Election Method Criticized

"As long as American troops are in South Vietnam and elections are organized by Nguyen Van Thieu, these elections can never be really free and democratic," Mr. Thao said.

Asked what connection there was between Points 1 and 2 and whether prisoners could be freed while the political problem was still unresolved, Mr. Thao said that an over-all settlement included a political settlement. But, he explained:

"In the case that Mr. Nixon sets a deadline in 1971, the liberation of the captured men will terminate before that date. This point is very clear.

He said that the problem of what he called the Government that the United States had set up in Saigon "to realize its neo-colonialist plans" was another question to be solved. "If the withdrawal and liberation are settled and the political problem is not yet settled," he said, "We must continue to act to settle it."

### Answering People's Hopes

The prospect was thus held out for bringing American men home by Christmas without reference to the political situation that might prevail at that time in South Vietnam. Indicating an awareness of the importance most Americans attach to the fate of the prisoners, Mr. Le the Hanoi spokesman said the plan answered "the ardent aspirations of the American people."

But the plan did not seem to answer some basic American and South Vietnamese objections.

It called on Mr. Nixon to make the first move as a con-

dition to discussion on a settlement. Calling the plan "a cleverly worded document that raises many questions," Mr. Ledogar said "we are not going to do business on the basis of what we have to do first."

The plan continued to reject the allied demand for simultaneous withdrawal of North Vietnamese forces from the South. It repeated the previous Communist position that the Vietnamese parties themselves would settle the question of military forces.

Commenting on the plan's insistence on the overthrow of the South Vietnamese regime, Nguyen Trieu Dan, the Saigon spokesman, said:

"We cannot compromise on the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. They ask for capitulation of the adversary at the conference table whereas they have been unable to obtain victory on the battlefield."

Throughout the document, the wording appeared to be conciliatory. The offer seemed much more elaborately and much less drily-worded than the 10-point plan presented in May of 1969 or the 8-point proposal offered last September.

It appeared to represent a considerable effort to make American withdrawal as easy as possible even though the

demands seemed to be basically unchanged.

### Move to Bar Violence

Thus, in addition to the offer on prisoners, the plan said that the Vietcong and a peace government would put into effect concrete measures with necessary guarantees to forbid acts of terror, reprisals or discrimination against persons who had collaborated with one side or another. This appeared to be an attempt to answer the fears expressed in American official circles of a "blood-bath" that would follow an assumption of Communist power in Vietnam.

Thus also, the document stressed step-by-step peaceful reunification of the two Vietnams and said neither country would have foreign troops or bases on its soil nor would it join any alliance or military block. South Vietnam would have economic and cultural relations with all countries, the document said, and specifically would establish "political economic and cultural relations" with the United States.

The last point spoke of "international guarantees" for the agreements to be concluded but the Communist spokesmen would not specify what the guarantees would be and in what framework they would be reached.