

Hanoi Aide in Paris Accuses U.S. of 'Perfidious Maneuvers'

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PARIS, July 22—North Vietnam's chief delegate, Xuan Thuy, apparently alluding to President Nixon's plans to visit Peking, accused the United States today of seeking to divide the Communist world by "perfidious maneuvers" in a "false offensive" for peace in Vietnam.

The sharp reaction was seen by American sources as a sign that the Vietnamese Communists had been thrown off balance by the announcement a week ago of the President's trip to establish normal relations between Communist China and the United States.

At the 122d session of the Paris Peace talks no visible progress was reported.

The Vietnamese Communists maintained their demand that the United States set a date in 1971 for total troop withdrawal. The United States and South Vietnam renewed their proposal for an immediate supervised cease-fire throughout Indochina.

The Communists have so far rejected an offer by David K. E. Bruce of the United States to join in secret talks on the new Communist peace proposal, declaring that a terminal date has to be set first.

But asked today whether the terminal date was a preliminary condition, the Vietcong spokesman, Duong Dinh Thau, replied that it was not.

The plan, put forward July 1 by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, leader of the Vietcong delegation, provided for release of American prisoners if a date were set for 1971. This was the first point of a plan for a political and military settlement.

The American position has been that a withdrawal date would not be set without first defining through secret talks exactly what was involved.

The United States would negotiate a timetable for complete withdrawal as part of an overall settlement. Mr. Bruce said today:

"We wish to know whether you consider your proposals as the only basis for negotiation of whether you will discuss our proposals as well."

Mr. Thau, the Vietcong spokesman, said that while a terminal date was not a preliminary condition "large sections of public opinion in the United States were clamoring for a date to be set because, having started the war of aggression in our country, the United States must now pull out."

He went on to say that the Communist peace offer was a lifeline that would enable President Nixon to be pulled out of the Vietnamese "quicksand."

"The question is whether he is up to his neck or whether the quicksand has closed over his head," Mr. Thau said.

(China file)

See fuller version/carried by SFChronicle, same date, which includes:

The Saigon spokesman, Nguyen Trieu Dan, told newsmen that since China "bore a responsibility for the war" because it has supplied arms and material for the fighting in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, China also has a "responsibility in the search for peace."