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## Bruce Ends Role at Talks With Deadlock Unbroken

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PARIS, July 29 — David K. E. Bruce retired as chief American delegate to the Vietnam peace talks today in an atmosphere of disappointment and recrimination.

Each side in the talks blamed the other for a deadlock that prevailed today as it had at the first session that Mr. Bruce attended last Aug. 6.

The 73-year-old diplomat, who is officially withdrawing for health reasons, delivered a protest as almost the last thing he had to say to the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations. He accused Hanoi of having increased its military activity in and around the demilitarized zone, which straddles the border between North and South Vietnam, and of having built a road through its western section. He charged "a blatant violation of the demilitarized zone, contrary to previous engagements and understandings."

### He Voices Hope for Peace

At the end of the relatively short session, he noted that he was leaving and expressed hope that further deliberations would lead to "a just and lasting peace." There was no handshaking or other forms of civility.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the head of the Vietcong delegation said she was still waiting and hoping for "a serious attitude and a positive response to our very just, logical and reasonable peace proposal."

"Only in this way," she said, "can peace be established as Mr. Bruce had just expressed the wish."

Mrs. Binh was referring to a seven-point plan presented July 1. It featured a demand that Washington set a date for the withdrawal of all American troops. Under the plan, if the deadline is met by the end of this year, all prisoners would be liberated before 1972.

As he has since the proposals were first presented, Mr. Bruce called for clarification. He said it was unreasonable for the other side to expect acceptance without more discussion and explanation. He

complained of the demand "for unilateral action from us on troop withdrawals as the price for even beginning discussion on other issues." He complained also of the Communist insistence that "the legitimate Government of the Republic of Vietnam be replaced before you will even agree to discuss the question of political settlement."

The Communists said that Mr. Bruce continued to express a negative attitude and to evade the issue. "Mr. Nixon is delaying negotiations," Mrs. Binh charged, "to gain time to pursue the Vietnamization of the war and to try to win a military victory."

Nguyen Thanh Le, the North Vietnamese spokesman, called Mr. Bruce "the executant and the advocate of the Nixon policy." He charged that the American delegate had "altered the truth" in charging the Communist side with responsibility for the deadlock. "That hardly honors Mr. Bruce," Mr. Le commented.

### Le Charges Calumny

As for the American charge of a build-up of Communist activity in the demilitarized zone, this was a "calumnious allegation," according to Mr. Le, who said it was meant to mask American military activity in Indochina.

Next week, Philip C. Habib, the deputy chief of the American delegation, will take over until William J. Porter, now Ambassador to South Korea, arrives here late next month. There is a general expectation that negotiations will languish at least until the elections in South Vietnam in August and October.

The Communist delegations are writing off these elections in advance as fraudulent and undemocratic. They refused to make any direct comment on the candidacy of Gen. Duong Van Minh. The Communist peace plan calls for replacement of the Saigon regime "by various means" with a peace cabinet with which the Vietcong could negotiate to form a coalition. The plan rules out negotiations with President Nguyen Van Thieu.