

lbylzyyoryyr
 Binh Bjt 500 Three Takes Total 1,110
 By MICHAEL GOLDSMITH
 and
 DAVID MASON

Associated Press Writers

PARIS AP - The Viet Cong has promised for the first time to identify all its U.S. war prisoners as soon as the United States sets a deadline for the total withdrawal of its troops from Vietnam. The undertaking was given by the Viet Cong foreign minister, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday.

She also sharply criticized William J. Porter, newly appointed chief U.S. negotiator at the Paris peace talks, for what she called the "unheard-of savagery" of the pacification program in South Vietnam under his direction.

Mrs. Binh declined during the 75-minute interview in her suburban residence to comment directly on President Nixon's attempt to improve U.S. relations with China. But she said that insofar as Nixon wants to engage the Chinese leaders in a discussion of a Vietnam settlement, his forthcoming trip to Peking will be pointless.

She accused the Nixon administration of ignoring the seven-point peace plan she presented to the Paris talks on July 1, and said outgoing U.S. negotiator David K. E. Bruce indulged in "time-wasting maneuvers" to avoid serious discussion of the plan. The first of the seven points, which she said could be implemented separately, calls for a total U.S. withdrawal by Dec. 31, together with step-by-step release of military and civilian prisoners held by both sides.

Asked why the Viet Cong-unlike Hanoi-has never published a list of its American prisoners, Mrs. Binh replied: "If Mr. Nixon wants to settle the problem of the prisoners, he only needs to set a deadline for the withdrawal of his troops.

Then he will have not only the list, he will have their liberation."

She was asked whether the Viet Cong intended to produce a list of the American prisoners as soon as a withdrawal date was announced.

Yes, this is certain," she replied.

U.S. officials said their latest figures, now a month old, indicate that 591 American servicemen are missing in South Vietnam, many of them assumed to be held in Viet Cong prison camps in the jungles along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. The total includes a score of Americans who disappeared in Cambodia during the U.S. incursion there last year.

Through intelligence and other sources, the United States has firm information that eight or nine of the nearly 600 missing in action in South Vietnam were captured alive. Nothing is known of the fate of the remainder. Hanoi published a list last December of the 339 American prisoners it claims to hold. The United States lists 783 airmen missing over North Vietnam. The Viet Cong has never explained its failure to publish a similar list.

Mrs. Binh, 44, graceful in her green silk ao-dai, the flowing Vietnamese national dress, often broke into a smile as she grooved for words in her almost flawless French and spoke softly of her flowers and her children in Vietnam.

Her voice took on a hard edge when she turned to Porter, who is due to take over the U.S. delegation in late August.

See also "U.S. Aide [William E. Colby] Defends Pacification Program In Vietnam Despite Killings of Civilians," NYTimes 20 Jul 71, filed CIA.

MORE

CA247ped July 31

a239

lbylzyyqdyv

PARIS Take 2 Binh Bjt A238: August. 390

Porter, until now ambassador to South Korea, served as deputy ambassador in Saigon from mid-1965 to early 1967 and was in charge of the pacification program seeking to eliminate the Viet Cong political infrastructure."

We know something about Mr. Porter," Mrs. Binh said. "He dealt with the pacification plan and political questions, and I can tell you that the Vietnamese people consider the pacification program to have been conducted with military and political means of unheard-of-savagery. This is what we know about Mr. Porter."

She was asked whether she held Porter personally responsible for any excesses of the pacification program.

What we know of Mr. Porter is that as long as he directed this policy he was responsible for it," she replied.

Bruce's replacement by Porter had little significance for the peace talks, she added.

What is important is the policy of President Nixon. For the moment, he is using all possible means to gain time."

Mrs. Binh was asked to comment on Nixon's trip to Peking, which the President described as a major development in our efforts to build a lasting peace in the world."

We have heard Mr. Nixon speak of peace many times," she said.

Everyone knows that whenever he spoke of peace he only prolonged and intensified the war, not only in Vietnam but in Laos and Cambodia as well."

To put an end to the war, Nixon needs only to give a "positive reply" to the seven-point plan, she said, adding in direct reference to the Peking trip:

Mr. Nixon has no need to look elsewhere because the Paris conference exists and provides all the facilities needed for a political settlement of the South Vietnamese problem. The American government only has to make use of it.

If Mr. Nixon really wants to solve the Vietnamese problem, he only has to take the Paris conference seriously. We don't see why he had to look for other means."

She asserted that the United States has given no reply whatever to the seven-point plan, and said, "we will continue asking for a reply." In the last three weekly sessions of the peace talks, Bruce repeatedly asked-in vain-for clarification of the seven points.

Mrs. Binh expressed no interest in a long-standing American proposal for enlarging the Paris talks to include Laos, Cambodia and other interested powers including China. The proposal reportedly received favorable comment in Peking recently.

MORE

CA256ped July 31

a240

lbyluivezcc

PARIS Take 3 Binh Bjt A239 recently. 220

The Vietnam problem should remain before the Paris talks in their present form, she said. As for Cambodia and Laos, their problems should be dealt with in separate contacts between the rival local forces. As an example she cited the contacts between the royal Laotian government and the pro-Communist Pathet Lao.

She accused the United States of seeking "to keep Nguyen Van Thieu in power in Saigon by all possible means."

The United States has given to Thieu's administration a machine of repression . . . which he uses to suppress all the forces of opposition and thus assure himself of re-election," she declared.

If, despite this repression," Gen. Duong Van "Big" Minh should emerge as the winner in the Oct. 3 presidential elections, would the Viet Cong negotiate with him?

We are ready to discuss with any person, by whatever means he comes to power, provided he favors peace, independence, neutrality and national concord," Mrs. Binh replied. But she declined to comment directly on Minh.

Nor would she indicate how the Viet Cong would instruct its followers to vote in the Oct. 3 elections.

We consider that as long as American troops remain in Vietnam and the administration led by Nguyen Van Thieu remains in place, these elections can be neither honest nor free," she said.

Whatever emerges from these elections depends on the will of the American government."

CA300ped July 31