

Paris Talks

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**Tougher Hanoi
Peace Terms****Paris**

North Vietnam toughened its peace terms yesterday in an abrupt about face which scuttled its own carefully nurtured efforts over the past two months to appear more accommodating.

Hanoi delegate Xuan Thuy made clear that the United States must "simultaneously" announce the end of its support for Saigon President Nguyen Van Thieu and total U.S. troop withdrawal before American prisoners could be released.

TALKS

Nguyen Thanh Le, the Hanoi press spokesman at the stalemated peace talks, drove home the change by insisting that the Viet Cong's seven-point peace program "forms a whole," and that it is "indispensable to reach agreement on the whole" package program.

Left in shreds were not only more optimistic impressions voiced by anti-war Senator George McGovern (Dem-S.D.), but a hitherto unquestioned statement by Le Duc Tho, a Hanoi politburo member.

In an interview with the New York Times, just five days after the Viet Cong presented their seven-point program July 1, — Tho said, "To show our good will, we can settle point one (dealing with prisoner release in re-

turn for a U.S. troop withdrawal deadline) separately."

OFFICIALS

The major hardening of Communist positions came to light in press briefings after the 129th conference session. The briefings also disclosed that Nguyen Thi Binh, the head Viet Cong delegate, was "on her way back" to Vietnam after an official visit to Poland.

Observers suggested that Mrs. Binh, who left Warsaw September 11 for consultations with Communist officials in Moscow and Peking,

may return to Paris with new proposals.

U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter and his Saigon colleague, Pham Dang Lam, fruitlessly hammered away at the Communist delegates inside the conference, hoping to gain confirmation of McGovern's optimistic impressions.

The senator last weekend spent six hours with Thuy and the Viet Cong's Dinh Ba Thi and came away convinced that the Communists no longer demanded the removal of the Thieu regime as a precondition for prisoner release.

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