

FEB 24 1972

## First Red Walkout at Paris Talks

SF Examiner

PARIS — (AP) — North Vietnam and the Viet Cong staged an unprecedented walkout at the Vietnam peace talks today in protest against recent U.S. bombings of North Vietnam.

Conference sources saw the walkout as a demonstration of North Vietnam's independence toward any bargaining over the Vietnam war that might take place between President Nixon and Premier Chou En-lai in Peking.

The North Vietnamese spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, brought up the Peking summit.

### Hypocrisy Charge

In answer to newsmen's questions about possible discussions of the Vietnam War in Peking, Le asserted that if the United States wanted peace it must respond positively in Paris to the Communist proposals to end the war.

He assailed what he said was the hypocrisy of Nixon's toast in the Chinese capital. Nixon spoke of his desires for peace.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong have obviously been far from content that China, one of their chief al-

—From Page 1

lies, is entertaining Nixon, their bitter enemy.

U.S. spokesman Stephen Sedogar was asked about speculation that the Vietnam War is being discussed in Peking and replied: "No comment."

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong said the next session of the peace talks will be held March 2. But both the United States and South Vietnam reserved agreement on a new meeting date.

The Communist delegations had called for today's meeting after the United States suspended last week's session in protest over anti-American attacks at an international Vietnam rally near Paris.

The Communist delegations walked out after the session was 17 minutes old.

It was the first time in the three-year history of the talks that a delegation had walked out after a session started.

U.S. Ambassador William F. Porter said it violated the conference rules of procedure.

Xuan Thuy, leader of the North Vietnamese delegation told today's session:

"The escalation of the air war during recent days has further laid bare the fallacious character of the Nixon Administration's talks of peace and its obstinate and bellicose attitude."

He referred to recent U.S. air strikes on North Vietnam, "in particular on Feb. 16 and 17, exactly on the

Vietnamese traditional new year's days."

U.S. warplanes made about 125 strikes Feb. 16-17 inside North Vietnam against newly installed long-range artillery and anti-aircraft defenses which the U.S. Command in Saigon said threatened U.S. forces in South Vietnam.

—Turn to Page 8, Col. 1