

Paris Talks-- U.S. Presses POW Issue

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Paris

The United States proposed to the Vietnamese Communists yesterday that prisoner-of-war camps be opened to international inspection "in return for an undertaking by both sides to refrain from efforts to liberate prisoners from the locations visited."

Without responding directly, the Communists called the proposal an evasion of the fundamental issue. Nguyen Thanh Le, the North Vietnamese spokesman, said that if the Nixon administration agreed to the two main points of their peace plan, "all the American troops, prisoners or not, can certainly be back in the United States before Easter."

Leaving the 146 session of the Paris conference, Ambassador William J. Porter summarized it as "more of the same." It was the first full session since February 10.

Despite harsh mutual charges of violations of the agreement underlying the conference, both sides agreed to meet again next Thursday. It was the only point of accord.

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since Feb. 10. Mr. Porter and Saigon's representative, Pham Dang Lam, called off the next two meetings, citing the "climate" of an antiwar conference in Versailles.

The other side walked out of the Feb. 24 session to protest the heavy American air raids on North Vietnam, and Mr. Porter and Mr. Lam canceled the next two.

'Hypocritical Maneuver'

Today, with Xuan Thuy, head of the Hanoi delegation, reportedly ill, Nguyen Minh Vy led it. Mr. Le quoted Mr. Vy as describing Mr. Porter's proposal on prisoners as "a hypocritical maneuver that fizzled."

"In the course of a private meeting we had with Mr. Kissinger in July, 1971," Mr. Le continued, "Mr. Kissinger declared this: 'Don't think we are negotiating with you to settle the war only because of the prisoners'—which shows that the Nixon Administration doesn't care about the prisoners."

Almost offhandedly, he added that all Americans, including the prisoners, could be home by Easter if Washington agreed to the basic two points of the Communist plan. The first calls for withdrawal of American troops and war material and the release of prisoners, the second for the replacement of the Thieu government in Saigon and negotiations toward a coalition government.

Despite harsh mutual charges of violations of the accord underlying the conference, both sides agreed today to meet again next Thursday. It was the only point of concurrence.