

MAR 24 1972  
**U.S. CALLS A HALT  
 TO PARIS PARLEYS  
 ON VIETNAM WAR**

NYTimes  
**TO AWAIT CHANGE**

**Serious Effort Sought  
 —Reds Say They Will  
 Never Accept Terms**

By JOHN L. HESS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 23—The United States declared an indefinite suspension of the Paris peace conference on Vietnam today.

Ambassador William J. Porter told the Vietnamese Communists that there would be no further meetings until they showed willingness for "serious discussions" on concrete issues defined in advance. In reply the Communists charged that he was posing "conditions we can never accept."

[In Washington, the State Department said that the United States would take a "continuous assessment" each week to determine whether the Communists were prepared to negotiate seriously.]

The break, apparently the most serious of several interruptions in the three years of the negotiations, came at the 147th session of the conference in the former Hotel Majestic near the Arc de Triomphe. It was announced by Mr. Porter, head of the United States delegation, in an opening statement described by a spokesman as having been carefully prepared.

**U. S. Voices Disappointment**

In expectation that the Communists, who had first turned this time, would repeat pre-

vious positions, Mr. Porter's prepared remarks began: "I should not conceal from you the fact that our side is very disappointed by your presentations of today."

Finding no "give" in their position, Mr. Porter announced the suspension in these words:

"As you know, President Nixon, at the request of the Congress, has declared next week as a week of national concern for our men held prisoner by you and your associates. It would be a mockery of our concern for them were we to sit in this room with you and listen to more of your blackmail and distortions to the

**Continued on Page 5, Column 1**

effect that the prisoner-of-war issue is an imaginary problem.' Therefore our side does not agree to a meeting next week.

"As for meetings in the weeks that follow, we believe it would be preferable to await some sign from you that you are disposed to engage in meaningful exchanges on the various points raised in your and our proposals.

"Our side will be alert to signs of that nature which you may send through any convenient channel, including our liaison officers if you desire. If you do indicate a desire for 'serious discussion,' you will understand, I am sure, that we may need to explore your intentions rather fully prior to agreeing to meet."

**P.O.W. Issued Stressed**

Mr. Porter said that meetings on the treatment of prisoners would be particularly welcome, and that his side would "suggest meetings to discuss particular points or subjects whenever such discussions appear likely to be useful."

Each side has declined to attend meetings in the past for one or more weeks because of specific objections. The Com-

munist side, for instance, has been absent in protest against American bombing of North Vietnam, and the United States recently canceled a meeting while a large conference of antiwar groups was being held in Versailles. However, this is the first time either side has announced an indefinite suspension.

Repeated efforts by reporters to obtain further clarification of the criteria for resuming the talks were vain. Ambassador Pham Dang Lam, head of the Saigon Government's delegation, did say as he left the conference that the American proposal "concerns concentrating each meeting on a concrete issue."

The American spokesman, Stephen Ledogar, clarified the United States position at a briefing later. "I am not Ambassador Lam's spokesman," Mr. Ledogar said, "but when he says 'concrete issues,' he meant all of them." Under a rain of questions, he declined to explain further or to acknowledge a breach or suspension of the talks.

"I'm going to stick very closely to the language of our speech, which was very carefully drafted," he said.

**Reds Visibly Angered**

The Communist spokesmen, usually serene, showed visible anger today, repeatedly denouncing the Porter declaration as "a maneuver of sabotage." Xuan Thuy, the North Vietnamese delegate, said at a curbside news conference that the Nixon Administration had had "many occasions to settle the Vietnamese problem" but instead had prolonged the war and was using Indochina as a "testing ground for new weapons."

Next week's session, he added, would be the sixth canceled by the United States "without a valid reason."

Ly Van Sau, spokesman for the Vietcong's provisional revolutionary government, said at a news conference: "The United States has undertaken today a new escalade in the sabotage of the conference. Mr. Porter has posed a whole series of conditions we can never accept."

**'No Result Would Ensur'**

"Who has given Mr. Porter the right to decide what is significant or not?" he demanded. "In these conditions, whatever we do, even if this conference were transferred to the moon, no result would ensue."

Similarly, Mr. Ledogar declared: "We can't be any worse off than we are now."

Neither side would comment on how exchanges on a possible solution might now pro-

ceed, nor how, for example, a possible new proposal might be relayed by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong foreign minister, who is due to return tomorrow after a long absence in Indochina. It appeared likely that such exchanges would not, in any case, occur on the stage of the Hotel Majestic.

Such a rupture had been the subject of wide speculation here since last fall, when Ambassador Porter, on his arrival, began taking a tough line.

**Weekly U. S. Assessments**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 23—The State Department said today that the United States would be making a "continuous assessment" each week to determine whether or not the Communist delegations in Paris were prepared to negotiate seriously.

Charles W. Bray 3d, the department spokesman, declined to describe the talks as "finished," but he said at the department's daily briefing that the United States would reserve "the right to determine whether future meetings would be useful in any given week."

In answer to a question, Mr. Bray said that the expected return to Paris of Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the head of the Vietcong delegation, would not "in itself" be construed as evidence of Communist seriousness of purpose.

"If Mrs. Binh has something new to propose, I have no doubt that she will find a way to signal it," he said.