

(First part of story not available.)

## Paris Asks Peace Talk Renewal

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presses particularly the wish that the Paris conference resume its work without delay in order to reach a settlement which assures the security and independence of the Vietnamese populations."

It was one of the rare instances France has stated any position on the conference since it began in January 1969. The French position has long been that the United States should get out of Vietnam and let the Vietnamese decide their own future.

Once the peace conference got under way, Charles de Gaulle, when he was president, and later Pompidou did not openly criticize the United States directly or publicly intervene in the progress of the conference.

### Intermediary

Both sides, particularly the Communists, have maintained close contact with the French, and France has sometimes privately acted as intermediary.

North Vietnam asked France last Friday to use its good offices to halt U.S. bombing of the North.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegations, in similar statements, demanded that the 148th session of the conference be held tomorrow — the usual meeting day — and that the United States halt its bombing of North Vietnam.

On several previous occasions, the Communist delegations have boycotted the peace talks because of U.S. bombing raids in North Vietnam.

### Switch

Thus, the demand for a new meeting tomorrow, with little chance that the new heavy bombing of the North would stop, constituted a shift in tactics. The Communists also had called for a conference session April 6, but they were turned down.

The North Vietnamese asserted today that "the Nixon Administration is actively preparing to step up its extremely grave acts of escalation of the war against North Vietnam."

The statement condemned the bombings and demanded that the United States halt them immediately.

### Return

The U.S. delegation announced that Ambassador William Porter, head of the American delegation to the talks, will return to Paris tomorrow after a 13-day trip to the United States for consultations. There was no indication his return would mean an early resumption of the conference.