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French Ask Peace Talk Resumption

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France yesterday lent its prestige to Communist demands for an immediate resumption of the Vietnam peace talks, which were unilaterally suspended for an indefinite period by the United States and South Vietnam March 23.

A government spokesman told newsmen after the weekly cabinet session that "the French government, notably as host of the Paris conference, expresses the hope that the conference resume its work without delay in order to achieve a settlement and assure the security and independence of the Vietnamese populations."

Although neither the U.S. nor South Vietnamese delegations would comment on the French statement, the allies rejected Communist demands that the talks resume today, their regular meeting date for most of the nearly four years since the stalemated negotiations began.

SOLUTION

The French statement also said that "the French government is more than ever convinced that the conflict must have a political solution and that such a solution remains possible."

The U.S. firmly expressed its "displeasure" with the French statement, after a conference at the White House of the Washington Special Action Group that has been meeting daily on the Vietnam war.

At the time of the suspension of the Paris conference, the U.S. said no new meetings could be envisaged unless the Communists agreed to "negotiate seriously." The allied refusal to hold further meetings has only been strengthened by the current Communist offensive.

VISITS

The French stand followed recent visits to Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann by the heads of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese delegations. They had sought to enlist French support for their demands on resuming the negotiations.

A Viet Cong and Hanoi call yesterday for renewed negotiations — their sixth since the indefinite suspension of the talks — was coupled with the now traditional demand for an immediate end of the bombing of North Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the U.S. delegation announced that Ambassador William J. Porter is scheduled to return tomorrow from consultations in Washington. He is expected to make a brief arrival statement at the airport.

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