

Reds Hint They May End Talks

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North Vietnam yesterday raised the possibility of formally breaking off the stalemated and suspended peace talks in retaliation for the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong by American warplanes.

Xuan Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese negotiator, said in a communique "in the light of these latest events we are going to restudy the question" of advocating resumption of the talks. The nearly four-year-old negotiations were unilaterally suspended for an indefinite period by the United States and Saigon on March 23.

Thuy's communique said that "15 planes including a B-52" had been shot down in the raids carried out by "hundreds of aircraft" on a "certain number of places" in Hanoi and its suburbs and on "man-populated neighborhoods" of Haiphong.

"By these demented acts of war," his communique added, "the Nixon administration revealed in full daylight its barbarity, its aggressive nature and its hypocrisy if one refers to its so-called desire to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem."

It said these "criminal acts were the confession of the lamentable failure of

Vietnamization," violated "all principles of international law" and "constituted defiance of all peace and justice loving peoples in the world including the United States."

He denounced the "extremely serious escalation" of the war represented by the bombings, but recalled that both North Vietnam and the Viet Cong had been pressing the United States to resume the formal peace talks.

Observers noted that in the past Hanoi often has canceled scheduled meetings of the peace talks to protest American bombing of North Vietnam.

But the allied refusal to hold the once regular weekly sessions has made it impossible for the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong to cancel meetings which, despite the Communist offensive in South Vietnam, they have been trying unsuccessfully to schedule.

The vague wording of Thuy's decision to "restudy" past Communist demands for resuming the conference raised the possibility that North Vietnam and the Viet Cong are contemplating breaking off the talks and even ordering their delegations to leave Paris.

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