

U. S. HALTS PEACE TALKS IN PARIS; SENDS MORE PLANES TO VIETNAM; ENEMY SETS UP A QUANGTRI REGIME

BREAK INDEFINITE

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Porter Implies Secret Sessions Are Also in a Deadlock

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PARIS, May 4—The United States and South Vietnam declared an indefinite halt in the Paris peace conference today.

The American delegate, William J. Porter, said the decision was a result of "a complete lack of progress in every available channel." The clear implication was that secret nego-

Excerpts from Paris statements are printed on Page 20.

tiations were as deadlocked as are the open ones.

Mr. Porter, talking with newsmen after the formal session, said the United States and South Vietnam had told the other side that "we would not agree to set a date for the next meeting."

The Communists described the breakoff as the prelude to new escalation by the United States.

[In Washington, United States officials made a point of suggesting that they had been misled by assurances—presumably from Moscow—of Hanoi's readiness for "serious" talks. The State Department said the latest round in Paris seemed "to have gotten nowhere." Page 20.]

'Intimidation' Termed Useless

As Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign minister of the Communist-led provisional revolutionary government of South

Vietnam, left the conference hall in Paris, she declared: "If the Nixon Administration thinks it can use intimidation and force to subjugate the Vietnamese people, it is mistaken."

Some Communist officials indicated during interviews that heavy air attacks on North Vietnam were expected imminently in response to the intensifying ground war. One source suggested that the vast network of dikes along the Red River Valley northwest of Hanoi would be a target and added:

"As Vietnamese, we foresee the worst. We are ready to cope with any situation. Last year there was the biggest flood in 55 years in North Vietnam—and we overcame it."

There have been reports

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from many sources, which neither side would confirm or deny, that Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, met here early this week with Le Duc Tho, a member of the Politburo of the North Vietnamese Communist party.

Until last night, at least, Vietnamese circles in contact with the Communists reflected optimism about an early agreement. The atmosphere this rain morning was grim from the start, however, and worse at the end, when a normally serene Communist spokesman just returned from Haiphong whipped out a child's shirt and toys and angrily cried that they were all that was left of victims of the bombing on April 16.

Mr. Porter, arriving for the 149th session at the former Majestic Hotel, near the Arc de Triomphe, told reporters that the meeting was being held "to give the other side—the Communist side—an opportunity to reflect and respond to certain questions we put to them."

Eight Queries Reiterated

In his opening statement he repeated the eight questions he had posed before. They ranged from "Will you discuss measures to end your invasion?" to "Will you consider any solution that does not include the overthrow of the elected leadership of South Vietnam?"

In turn, the Communists repeated the questions they asked last week: Will the United States "end its aggression" and will it "give a serious response" to their seven-point peace plan?

Mr. Tho did not attend. The North Vietnamese delegate, Xuan Thuy, told reporters that he was at the delegation's suburban villa, "studying the dossiers of both sides."

Mrs. Binh and Mr. Thuy denounced the statement by President Nixon in Texas last Sunday on the need to prevent a Communist take-over and a "bloodbath" in South Vietnam. "The only bloodbath is the slaughter committed by the United States and the Saigon administration over the last 10 years," Mrs. Binh said. She charged that Quangtri city had been "completely destroyed" by South Vietnamese and American forces.

U.S. Plan Termed Vague

Mrs. Binh rejected the American proposal for a mutual withdrawal of foreign troops. She termed it vague on the effective date and said it was linked to an agreement for elections "within the framework of the present regime in Saigon and under the control of its machine of coercion and repression, while those who wage the resistance war against United States aggression would give up their fight."

She and Mr. Thuy denied that a Communist take-over was planned in Saigon and they insisted on negotiations for a government "of broad national concord."

Mr. Porter told the Communists:

"Your statements today, once again, regrettably consisted of sterile denunciations, arrogant ultimatums and clumsy evasions. Let it be recorded that it is impossible to discuss with you particular subjects bearing on a peaceful settlement. That proof is as clear as your military aggression in South Vietnam.

"We therefore see no ground

for a session next week. We will resume the plenaries whenever you indicate that you are seriously interested in the negotiation of matters of substance, or when we believe discussions will be useful."

Stephen Ledogar, the American spokesman, ruled out questions about the rumors of a Kissinger-Tho meeting and responded testily to reporters who suggested that the Communists had in fact replied to some of Mr. Porter's questions. "There was no answer to any of our questions," he said.

Communist press spokesmen said they had no information about secret meetings nor about the report published here that Mr. Kissinger had proposed a seven-day truce to Mr. Tho.

Nguyen Thanh Le, spokesman for the North Vietnamese, recalled Mr. Tho's "generous offer" on his arrival here last Sunday, when he presented the Communist peace plan in its most flexible form. Mr. Nixon's reply was escalation, Mr. Le said.

Then, growing more agitated, he drew from a folder a map of Haiphong purporting to show where bombs hit, then photographs of buildings described as schools and housing projects, photographs of wounded children and a tiny torn shirt and two plastic toys, which he described as those of a child killed in the raid.

"And Voila?" Mr. Le ended. "Mr. Nixon fears that the two zones of Vietnam may be turned into a bloodbath?"

The North Vietnamese said that nonetheless they maintained their demand that the conference resume next Thursday. Mr. Le said Mr. Tho would stay in Paris "as long as necessary."

In an interview shortly after the talks broke off, Ly Van Sau, spokesman for the National Liberation Front, declared that it and North Vietnamese troops would continue to press the ground war but that the Communist side remained willing to negotiate to stop the shooting. Mr. Sau also said that, despite the success of the offensive, his side would prefer a negotiated settlement.

'People Want Unity'

"Regardless of the future of the ground war," he said, "we are still willing to negotiate—for only then will there be national unity. The people want national unity and we want to give them what they want."

"We will negotiate a stop at any moment," he added, "if the United States stops its aggressions, if President Thieu resigns and if the Saigon regime changes its policy."

Mr. Sau, interviewed in offices near the Majestic Hotel, described his delegation as "quite pleased and proud about the battlefield successes of the N.L.F. and North Vietnamese in South Vietnam."

"But we are not surprised," he went on. "We were waiting for it and expecting it."

He scoffed at repeated Washington reports linking the offensive's successes to the Soviet decision to improve the quality of weapons available to the North Vietnamese.

"The American weapons are also very good," Mr. Sau said with a laugh, referring to the vast numbers of arms known to have fallen into Communist hands. "If the Saigon troops are now being defeated, it was not due to a lack of arms, but because of the weapons they did not have—morale, motivation and heroism."