

MRS. BINH CAUSTIC

She Terms Nixon Offer More Stringent Than the 8-Point Plan

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 10 — Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the Vietcong delegation to the Paris peace talks, today denounced President Nixon's address on Vietnam Monday as a "speech of war" and categorically rejected his new proposal.

In a 90-minute interview at the Vietcong's villa near here, she described the offer as even more demanding than the eight-point proposal made by the White House on Jan. 25.

Mrs. Binh's denunciation was the first Vietcong reaction to the President's proposal. Yesterday the North Vietnamese negotiators here declared that they would never accept Mr. Nixon's military "ultimatum" and called his decision to mine the Haiphong harbor and step up the air war "the gravest step in escalation of the war to date."

President's Proposal

The President, in announcing his decision to mine harbors and block transportation in North Vietnam, called for an immediate cease-fire in Indochina and the release of all American prisoners of war in exchange for the end of all acts of force throughout Indochina and the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam within four months.

"I suppose some commentators are saying there is something more to negotiate in comparison with Mr. Nixon's eight-point proposals," Mrs. Binh said, "but as a matter of fact his conditions are even stiffer than those raised before."

She noted that he had called in January for a withdrawal and cease-fire to take place

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after the settlement of outstanding political and military issues.

"And now what does Mr. Nixon say?" she continued. "That while we are in a military situation which is favorable to our struggle, he calls for an immediate cease-fire. This means we must drop our weapons before the problems are solved and we must release all the prisoners. And only after these things are carried out, will Mr. Nixon decide on a troop withdrawal."

Turning to the key Communist demand at the Paris talks—that President Nguyen Van Thieu be forced out and that a new coalition government be installed in South Vietnam—Mrs. Binh said that Mr. Nixon's new proposal did not even raise the political issue.

There was speculation that Mr. Nixon's suggestions, which amounted to an offer to withdraw all American forces in South Vietnam unilaterally, would be met with interest by the Communist side.

But Mrs. Binh asked rhetorically: "What has Mr. Nixon said recently? He said he is resolute in his support of the regime of President Thieu and he is also trying to consolidate that support by means of bombs and shells. He is trying to force us to accept the Thieu administration without discussion."

She noted that the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese had rejected the offer the President made in January as "but a plan to carry out his Vietnamization policies" and asked: "How can I say there is something new or reasonable in this one?"

"I would like to stress," she went on, "that in light of the situation—that is, the fact that the failure of the Vietnamization policy is obvious to everybody—the way Mr. Nixon posed the problem is very unreasonable."

Report in Times Denied

Mrs. Binh also took exception to an American official's suggestion, published in a dispatch from Paris in The New York Times today, that during secret negotiations the North Vietnamese were summarily vetoing proposed members of a new coalition government that would either replace Mr. Thieu or work with him.

"That is not the truth," she said. "Since Mr. Nixon has not yet accepted our principles of respect for self-determination in South Vietnam, how can there be discussions on the concrete personalities to participate in a new administration?"

Such discussions are widely believed to have taken place during the secret meetings between Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief negotiator in Paris, and Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security.

Earlier today Mr. Tho, in a

brief statement to newsmen at Orly Airport, declared that Mr. Kissinger had "completely distorted the truth" about their meeting here last week.

In his speech Mr. Nixon said the North Vietnamese had responded to the Kissinger visit with "bombastic rhetoric and a replaying of their demands for surrender."

Mr. Tho was at the airport to see off Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, who was returning to Hanoi. Mr. Thuy told newsmen that "contrary to what Mr. Nixon states, the Vietnamese people do not at all dream of humiliating the United States, nor imposing a surrender upon it."

A Flash of Anger

Mrs. Binh was composed and serene during most of the interview, occasionally marking a phase with a wave or a brief, seemingly bitter laugh. She was accompanied by an interpreter, who translated the on-the-record interview from the Vietnamese, and Ly Van Sau, chief spokesman for the Vietcong delegation here.

She showed a flash of anger only once, when she was asked whether the Vietcong were ready to guarantee the non-Communist status of the South. Both the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations have been increasingly emphasizing that their demands for a new coalition government do not call for a Communist or socialist regime.

"My first reaction," she said, "is to ask: Why should we give a guarantee to the United States about this problem, because this is a problem to be solved among the Vietnamese

themselves. You have no right to ask us to guarantee this—it is for the Vietnamese."

A moment later she said with a laugh: "I believe that the most firm guarantee of this question is the aspirations and will of the people. Since 1960, we have stood for a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Vietnam. That is to say that we have a desire to build in South Vietnam a broad, democratic regime that is not a socialist regime."

Noting that one of her group's seven basic negotiating points calls for a general election, she said:

"But in order to have a really free and democratic general election, there should be an administration representing the people of all social strata and free from interference.

"We who have led the people for over 10 years do not demand the monopoly of power to hold the general election. We stand for a completely new government comprised of three segments. Our demand is only that we should be represented in this government if it is to be completely legitimate. But this is the very point Nixon opposes."

Hanoi's Stand Echoed

The Vietcong official asserted that Mr. Nixon, in his eight-point proposal last January, in effect said that "after we have dropped our weapons and given up our struggle, then we would be allowed to take part in the electoral committee."

"He thinks that is a generous offer," Mrs. Binh added.

In her attack on Mr. Nixon's address Monday, she echoed the statement issued by the North Vietnamese yesterday ac-

cusing the President of issuing an ultimatum.

"I'm of the opinion that Mr. Nixon's speech was a speech of war," she said, "designed to escalate the war even further."

Mr. Sau, the official Vietcong spokesman, noted that Mr. Nixon "did not set a date for withdrawal." Mr. Sau added: "Four months, he said. Four months after when? After 1976? Or after 1979? When?"

"What does he mean," Mr. Sau continued, "by calling for an unconditional cease-fire in all of Indochina while there is no political settlement first in South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia? Our struggle is a struggle with a political aim—for independence and freedom. It is not a second or third world war."

"It is out of Nixon's power to impose a settlement," the usually calm spokesman said with anger. "His speech is ridiculous—to impose a solution on our people while the military situation of the United States is not so brilliant."

'A Piratic Act'

Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, May 10 — In the first press comment from Hanoi on President Nixon's decision to mine North Vietnamese ports, Nhan Dan, the Communist party organ, described it today as "a piratic act" that was "pregnant with dangerous consequences for the U. S."

The move, it said, shows that the United States is "trying" desperately to scare the Vietnamese people and the countries having trade relations with or providing assistance to Vietnam.