

# Hanoi Backs Saigon Exiles in Coalition

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HANOI, North Vietnam, May 25 — Nguyen Duy Trinh, North Vietnam's Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier, has suggested in an interview that the coalition Government the Communists propose for South Vietnam should include some Vietnamese now living abroad.

Discussing some significant aspects of this proposed coalition, he said last night that the Saigon Government itself could designate its members in the coalition. The only name excluded was that of President Nguyen Van Thieu, whose departure is a fundamental Communist demand.

Mr. Trinh also suggested that the various elements in the coalition would agree on who would head it. Some diplomats here think the North Vietnamese would prefer the choice of someone now abroad.

## General Reply Provided

Mr. Trinh has been a member of North Vietnam's Communist party Politburo since 1956. He is a stolid, tough appearing man, 62 years old.

By request of officials a large number of questions were submitted in writing in advance. These covered such areas as why peace terms offered by President Nixon in his May 8th speech were not acceptable, what the Communist proposals mean and the effects of the recent bombing and mining in North Vietnam.

A lengthy written statement was provided in a general reply to all questions. Then Mr. Trinh discussed them further in a one-hour meeting last night in the grand salon of what was once the palace of the emperor's delegate in Tonkin—this area of Vietnam.

The comments, both written and oral, included much strong language terming the Americans aggressors. But in the discussion of the central question of transferring political power

in South Vietnam the replies seemed relatively moderate and careful.

Mr. Trinh expounded the proposal for a "three-segment" interim government made last July by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the organization proclaimed by the Vietcong. The three components would come from the present Saigon regime, the Vietcong group and unattached elements.

American negotiators have suspected that the last element would be inclined toward the Communists also. Thus Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser for national security, said on May 9 that the Vietcong proposal was for "the imposition under the thinnest veneer of a Communist government."

In a prepared statement Mr. Trinh repeated the familiar requirement that people in the third segment should "stand for independence, peace, neutrality and democracy." It is this that some American officials regard as a code phrase for Communist sympathizers.

But Mr. Trinh then added the thought that "many political and religious figures have had to live abroad to avoid persecution by the Thieu Administration." A little later he said again that the Vietnamese now "at home or abroad could serve in a 'national concord government.'"

## Position as Cease-Fire

Some nonofficial experts on the Vietnam situation in the United States and Europe think North Vietnam would accept non-Communist exiles for a coalition regime, including possibly its head.

One name mentioned, for example, is Nguyen Cong Duc a Saigon opposition deputy and editor of the former anti-Thieu newspaper Tin Sang. He fled South Vietnam last November and now lives in Paris. He is said to be a strong non-Communist nationalist.

While perhaps tactically mod-

erating language on the political issue, Mr. Trinh held firmly to the thesis that President Thieu must go. And like other leaders here he said North Vietnam would go on fighting unless a satisfactory settlement was reached, no matter what the United States did.

He discussed North Vietnam's position on one question that evidently puzzles many Americans — Why Mr. Nixon's proposal for a cease-fire has been turned down.

The Nixon plan, he said, called for a cease-fire first and then political reshaping of the South Vietnamese Government by means of elections. The revolutionary forces would have to lay down their arms. President Thieu would resign a month ahead but the election would be conducted by the "present institutions." Mr. Trinh commented:

"What the United States President calls 'generous terms' are nothing but the liquidation of the other side before the holding of elections."

He added that last October's presidential election in South Vietnam in which Mr. Thieu was the only candidate would indicate to Americans what elections under such conditions would amount to.

"In short," Mr. Trinh said of the Americans in his written statement, "they will withdraw their troops only on the condition of maintaining the Thieu stooge administration."

"The purpose of a ceasefire," he went on, is to stop the war, restore peace on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's national rights and the right of the South Vietnamese to self-determination.

"It is not at all to legalize the occupation by the United States Army or the presence of the Thieu Administration as an instrument of U. S. aggressors. To reach a ceasefire, to have a real peace there must necessarily be a correct solution to the Vietnam problem."

On the subject of a possible "bloodbath" among anti-Communist Vietnamese in the South if the United States pulled out completely, Mr. Trinh said the Vietcong proposals called for prohibiting "all acts of terror, reprisal and discrimination against persons who collaborated with one or the other party."

Mr. Trinh referred the correspondent to a statement issued April 24 by the revolutionary committee in Quangtri Province, northernmost in South Vietnam, which was captured by the Communists in the current offensive. The statement called for "protection of private trade" and ordered "no discrimination by the revolutionary power against former functionaries and personnel in the Saigon administration." It added that "those who wish to work for the revolutionary administration will be welcomed and assigned to suitable posts."

American and South Vietnamese officials have made clear that they would have little confidence in such promises. Mr. Trinh was asked whether any form of international or external guarantees would be acceptable.

He replied that after the long war "the most precious thing for us will be unity and concord." He suggested that was the best assurance against divisive acts of revenge.

During the hour's interview Mr. Trinh smiled broadly at two points.

One was when he was asked whether North Vietnam could surmount the American mining. He said it would "of course" not affect the war in the South and said the North would take the "necessary steps to overcome the difficulties caused by this mining."

The second smile came when asked about Washington reports of strains in the political leadership here. He said that was just "psychological warfare."