

NYTimes AUG 12 1972
**Mrs. Binh Says Key Issue
 In Talks Is Saigon Rule**

**Chief Vietcong Delegate
 Calls the Communist
 Position 'Realistic'**

By FLORA LEWIS
 Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Aug. 11—Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Vietcong delegate to the Paris peace talks, made it clear today that the issue of American withdrawal from Vietnam, the focus of argument in the first years of the long-drawn-out talks, has now been replaced by the issue of organizing power in Saigon.

In an interview with The New York Times, Mrs. Binh said that if "an American President wants to end the war—any President—it's logical that he has to make a political settlement. It's in the interest of the United States."



Associated Press

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh

She was asked what effect the American election campaign might have on negotiations here and what would come of unilateral American withdrawal, either as proposed by the Democratic Presidential candidate, Senator George McGovern, or suggested by recent proposals in the Senate to cut off war funds.

"Why unilateral withdrawal?" Mrs. Binh asked in reply. "Why not end with a solution? There would be guarantees for all, for us and for the United States. We would have to ask ourselves why the United States was seeking a unilateral exit from the war—in order not to make any commitments about returning or not returning?"

"McGovern gives a general line," she said. "He hasn't entered into details of a possible

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 solution."

As for the election campaign, the Vietcong delegate said that "if it has any effect, it will be on Nixon's side. He is preoccupied with the campaign, and he will have to think more about" the importance of negotiations in relation to the election.

The theme of an hour's interview with Mrs. Binh was that the United States must make a political agreement leading to a new government in Saigon to bring an end to the war. But she said repeatedly that the Communist side was "flexible" and "realistic" and did not seek control of a new government.

The interview was conducted in French, which Mrs. Binh speaks fluently, with a pure accent.

She said that she reads English, but is not comfortable in speaking it. Her press spokesman, Ly Van Sau, interrupted and spoke to her in Vietnamese for a few moments.

When she resumed, she said, "I didn't understand well about withdrawing unilaterally. Why can't the Americans go if they want?" She laughed easily, in a gesture of relaxation and poise, which, other delegates say, has never occurred in the formal conference sessions.

"We didn't invite the Americans," Mrs. Binh said. "They came and we aren't stopping them from leaving. If they want to go," she said refer-

ring to a political agreement, "our proposal permits that in an acceptable and responsible way."

That means, she made clear, a new government in Saigon "that is not the instrument of Vietnamization. In that case we don't get peace, or a settlement. But also, we don't want a Communist Government."

"What do we want?" Mrs. Binh continued. "A national democratic government, a broad democracy, with a neutral foreign policy. But to get there, we realize that the people of South Vietnam must have really free, democratic elections. Really free, democratic elections is the central point of our political program."

"We are fundamentally opposed to the United States on this point. Nixon wants to organize elections under the control of the existing regime. But we are flexible, we are not asking for control of the political situation entirely in our own hands, but in the hands of all political forces of South Vietnam."

Vietnamization, Mrs. Binh said several times, is the key target of the Communist forces. She never referred to President Nguyen Van Thieu, but spoke, rather, of the need to defeat the policy of Vietnamization militarily and politically.

Now that most American troops have left Vietnam, though large-scale air action continues over North and South, the long American argument about pulling out seems to have little interest for the Communists. They do not consider troop withdrawals any particular credit to President Nixon.

Vietnamization the Target

Asked to define what she meant by "support for the Saigon Government," which she said must be ended, Mrs. Binh replied, "military, political and even economic support for the policy of Vietnamization. We are not against all United States help, but it must really help, in the development of our country, our prosperity."

"The purpose of Vietnamization," she said, "is to reinforce the Saigon army to the point where it can hold alone, to smash the patriotic forces."

She mentioned the "pacification program" as "another

very important aspect of Vietnamization. It makes less noise than the other," she said, "but it is the struggle of all the people to break out of this system of concentration camps."

Mrs. Binh said that the current Communist offensive had demonstrated the "disintegration and demoralization of the Saigon army. Why did this army get demoralized so quickly? For lack of weapons?"

Sarcasm, Spoken Softly

The point was sarcastic, but the tone was soft, almost gentle. Mrs. Binh has won a reputation in the conference room for being tough, strong-minded and wooden. In the upstairs sitting room of her delegation's villa at suburban Verrières-le-Buisson, where she was interviewed, she quietly and expressively, with a seemingly urgent eagerness to be persuasive rather than overwhelming.

She wore a pale blue-and-beige flowered ao, a white silk sweater and pink lipstick and looked much fresher than her 45 years and the hard life of a guerrilla would seem to have warranted.

Only once, when the question of American prisoners was raised, did she speak of the sufferings of the soldiers in her cause. She said: "We think it's not at all logical to talk of American prisoners while the war is going on, while many Vietnamese are dying and being wounded by bombs from American planes and American munitions."

Denies Atrocity Charges

Later, she brought up the subject of prisoners herself, while discussing charges of Communist atrocities against civilians in some areas recently recaptured by South Vietnamese troops.

"We categorically reject these calumnies," she said.

"The State Department said we shot refugees leaving Quang-tri, but they were leaving because of American bombardments, which don't distinguish between refugees and nonrefugees."

"We have very concrete targets, the military and military bases. We have to rely on the people to protect us and to nourish us. So what must our attitude to the people be? It can only be respect. If we are merciful and humane to our enemies as prisoners, we can only have a correct policy toward our own people."