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Hanoi Rejects Saigon's Offer to Release 600 Prisoners of War

PARIS, Aug. 24 (Reuters)—The North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks here rejected today a South Vietnamese offer to free 600 sick and wounded prisoners of war.

Hanoi's deputy chief of delegation, Nguyen Minh Vy, described the Saigon offer as a "well-known tactic."

The proposal was also sharply rejected by the chief Vietnamese delegate, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, who stated: "We denounce this maneuver. The U.S. and Saigon administrators have no right to capture patriots.

They must free them all immediately."

Saigon made its offer Tuesday and described the men as captured North Vietnamese.

Before today's session, the 156th of the conference, Mrs. Binh assailed last night's speech by President Nixon at the Republican Convention in Miami, charging that he had hidden the truth about Vietnam.

She declared: "President Nixon measured his desire for peace by the number of kilometers he said he covered to find a solution to the war.

"But he purposely did not speak of millions of tons of bombs and shells he had launched and continues to launch over all the Indochinese Peninsula in the name of American peace."

She asked why the Mr. Nixon should travel around the world when a solution to the Vietnam conflict was to be found at the Paris conference.

Delegation Chiefs Absent

Today's session was marked by the absence of chief United States negotiator, William J. Porter, who was said to be "on holiday somewhere in Europe," and that of the chief Hanoi delegate, Xuan Thuy, who is said to be resting in the south of France.

In statements delivered at the conference, the Vietcong delegation reiterated that there could be no serious negotiation as long as President Nguyen Van Thieu remained in power in Saigon.

The United States delegation charged that the "Communists were making different statements of intention for home and for foreign consumption."

Heyward Isham, the Deputy United States negotiator said: "These statements come as no surprise, for they reflect a policy you have followed for many years, and the only reason for citing them now is that they raise questions about the consistency of what you are saying in Paris and what you are saying elsewhere."

Answering questions on Mr. Nixon's speech after the session, the Vietcong spokesman, Le Van Sau, said the American position had not advanced an inch.

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