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## Fears Consequences

# Hanoi Certain Of Nixon Win

By Keyes Beech

HONG KONG — (CDN) — Hanoi is fully convinced President Nixon will be re-elected and is prepared to accept the consequences, Western diplomatic sources here said today.

One of the consequences, Hanoi fears, is that Nixon will step up the air war against North Vietnam and order B-52 bombers to flatten Hanoi.

"Whether the fear is justified is beside the point," said a diplomat freshly arrived from Hanoi after more than a year's stay. "It's what Hanoi believes."

### Hope Gone

For a short time, he said, Hanoi had hoped that Sen. George McGovern would win the election because of the "McGovern phenomenon" in sweeping the primaries and winning the nomination.

Now, this source said, that hope has faded and Hanoi is resigned to four more years of Nixon.

"The people in Hanoi are rather disappointed at McGovern's poor showing because they expected a better understanding from him and, also, they were intrigued by the idea of being the first country to experience McGovern's new approach to foreign affairs," the source said. "They don't trust Nixon because, they say, he is a politician first and politicians don't tell the truth."

### The Picture

The source painted this general picture of conditions

in North Vietnam:

Despite the renewed bombing and the mining of Haiphong harbor, there is no visible letup in the war effort. Thousands of new trucks — "so new you can smell the rubber of their tires" — laden with war supplies arrive in North Vietnam daily from China and go back empty. They travel by night to avoid U.S. bombing.

The trucks, Russian-Chinese- and Czech-made, are an indication that despite their differences Peking and Moscow have reached agreement to trans-ship Soviet supplies to offset American bombing and the mining of Haiphong.

Although American bombing has destroyed all major bridges, war supplies are still getting through. "It just makes everything a little slower."

### More Gasoline

There is no shortage of petroleum products. If anything, there is more gasoline than before the mining of Haiphong. The Communists have beaten the blockade and bombing by laying plastic pipelines underground from the Chinese border.

Food is adequate. North Vietnam has suffered a rice deficit for the past five years, but China has made up the difference.

However, pork and other food items are rationed once again. Hanoi's big central market has been dispersed into smaller markets against bombing.

The controversial bombing

of the dikes is, in the opinion of some experts, deliberate rather than accidental, as the United States says. The reason for this conclusion is the pattern of the bombing.

Bombs have hit dikes where there were no military targets or roads. Moreover, the dikes have been bombed in places where they are most vulnerable and difficult to repair.

### Morale High

Instead of forcing the North Vietnamese to give in, the bombing has if anything reduced the prospects of peace. Morale is high, the people are disciplined.

Bombing has strengthened the hand of the hardliners within the regime and, by the same token, weakened the doves.

Premier Pham Van Dong, described as a flexible, was reported ready to accept a negotiated settlement but was undercut by the bombing and overruled by such hardliners as Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap.

The regime is still bound by the last will and testa-

ment of Ho Chi Minh, who died three years ago, and no man is prepared to say that because conditions have changed since his death Hanoi should give up the unification of Vietnam.

### Eligible Men

Despite staggering casualties, Hanoi officials are discussing a birth control program with Swedish diplomats. And there still are young men on the streets of Hanoi who are eligible for combat.

Hanoi's attitude toward South Vietnam has undergone a revolutionary change.

It now concedes that the South is a "different" country and that its social system has changed so much since 1956 that it is inadvisable to impose Communism on the population, at least not immediately.