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U.S. Halts Hoffa Trip To Hanoi

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Former teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa disclosed yesterday he has been invited to Hanoi to meet with American prisoners of war. Hoffa was preparing to depart when the State Department announced at the last minute that it had revoked validation of his passport.

Hoffa had received permission for the trip from both the State Department and the U.S. Parole Board after he told them that he wanted to meet with the prisoners and attempt to gain their freedom.

In Washington, State Department press officer Charles W. Bray said that the special validation required by the U.S. government for American travelers to North Vietnam was stamped in Hoffa's passport Wednesday by an official who was not authorized to do so.

He added, "the Secretary of State, among other things, did not believe private Americans should be involved in negotiations con-

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cerning our prisoners of war."

Hoffa said he had been invited by the Hanoi Trade Union to make the trip in discussions he held with the North Vietnamese group "over the last three months."

The paroled former union chief said "certain conditions" were preventing him from going ahead with plans for the trip and said he may still go at a later date. He did not elaborate.

"I am on my way back to Detroit this evening and I am not on my way to Hanoi," Hoffa said. "I am not planning to go at this time."

Hoffa said he had not discussed the trip with President Nixon or "anybody at the White House."

Charles F. Hengstebeck, chief U.S. probation officer for eastern Michigan, said Hoffa applied September 1, for 30 days for the trip.

"We had no hesitancy at all about granting permission to make a trip like that," said Hengstebeck, who called Hoffa a model parolee. "You don't give permission to everybody, but we have every reason to believe he'll not do anything he shouldn't do."