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## Envoy at

## Peking

## Sees Hanoi

By Keyes Beech

HONG KONG — (DN) — France's top Asian expert flew from Peking to Hanoi today after the bomb raid on the French diplomatic mission there.

Etienne Manach, French ambassador to China, went to Hanoi ostensibly to "restore order," but a more urgent reason was to fill a gap in peace-making efforts left by the injury of Pierre Susini, head of the French delegation to Hanoi.

Susini is in a Hanoi hospital with burns over "60 percent of his face and body," according to French sources.

The U.S. attack came at a time of speculation that the Paris peace talks were on the verge of a breakthrough.

France has emerged as playing a key role in whatever settlement is reached.

Diplomatic observers agreed the American attack

could not have come at a worse time.

But the consensus was that the bombing would not destroy a settlement to end the war if, indeed, one was in sight.

Manach's presence in Hanoi was expected to help. One of his country's most skillful diplomats, Manach was head of the Asia Department of the French Foreign Ministry until he went to Peking as ambassador. He played a behind-the-scenes role in arranging the Paris peace talks and has often served as a contact between Washington and Hanoi.

Meanwhile, there were several indications that peace might be in sight. In Peking Cambodia's exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk told a French visitor he has received assurances from both Hanoi and Peking that his country would not be left out of any settlement.

In Hanoi, for the first time since the war began, Nhan Dan, the official Communist Party organ, turned its attention to problems of the "postwar" period. In an editorial devoted to the plight of orphans, widows and disabled veterans, Nhan Dan said the care of such unfortunates will be a "long-term task . . . even after the end of the war."

Observers also noted that in its Sept. 17 peace proposals, the "Provisional Revolutionary Government" of South Vietnam, the Communists' shadow government, was less explicit in its demand that President Nguyen Van Thieu must go.

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