

OCT 13 1972

HANOI ALERT BARS FRENCH AIDE'S JET

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Plane Bearing Envoy Turns

Back to Chinese City

NYTimes

HANOI, North Vietnam, Oct. 12 (Agence France-Presse)—An air-raid alert here today reportedly prevented the French Ambassador to Peking from arriving to take temporary charge of his country's diplomatic mission, which was wrecked yesterday during an American attack on the Hanoi area.

The plane on which the Ambassador, Etienne Manac'h, was traveling was said to have turned back and landed at Nanning in southern China. A spokesman for the French mission here, whose chief diplomat, Pierre Susini, was seriously injured yesterday, said Mr. Manac'h was now expected tomorrow.

Mr. Susini, who was taken to St. Paul's hospital with serious burns, was described at the mission as being in "very good" condition tonight, and it was suggested that he might be flown back to France shortly for skin-graft operations.

However, hospital sources stressed that it would be four or five days before it could be said whether the diplomat, who holds the post of delegate general, was out of danger.

Premier Pham Van Dong visited the hospital last night and talked at length with three or four doctors, asking them how they were treating Mr. Susini, who has burns over nearly 60 per cent of his body.

Cranes Clear Rubble

At the mission compound, meanwhile, workers operating huge cranes worked through the night under floodlights to clear the rubble piled up over the site. Only parts of the left and right wings of the delegation's headquarters were still standing.

At dawn members of the French mission and North Vietnamese employees were at the scene as the bodies of two of the four employees who were killed were recovered. They were Le Vaoan Toai, a switchboard operator, and Nguyen Xuan Khang, a driver.

The Hanoi radio reported yesterday that, in addition to the four employees, a woman staff member was killed at the mission.

Suggestions by the United States command in Saigon and the Pentagon in Washington that the French mission might have been wrecked by a North Vietnamese missile provoked a strong reaction here.

U. S. Suggestion 'Laughable'

"If people had not been killed and injured in this tragic affair, this would be laughable," one senior North Vietnamese official commented.

The North Vietnamese press agency quoted the Ambassador of Algeria, Aderazak Bouhara, as having said that he was in the courtyard of his embassy at the time of the raid "and I can affirm that the destruction was perpetrated by American bombs."

He said he himself narrowly escaped injury when a large bomb fragment fell only two meters from where he was standing, the Ambassador said. He reported that part of his embassy's roof was destroyed.