

HANOI DELEGATION IN PARIS SAYS U.S. IS 'INTRANSIGENT'

OCT 19 1972

But Spokesman Does Not
State Directly if Gap
Has Been Narrowed
NYTimes

By FLORA LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Oct. 18—North Vietnam's delegation to the Vietnam talks said at a news conference here today that the "Nixon Administration's position remains erroneous and intransigent."

The North Vietnamese spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, stressed that "the Nixon Administration has not changed its neocolonialist aggressive policy on the two fundamental questions—military and political."

He did not answer directly, however, a question about whether there had been any narrowing of the gap between the two sides in the last three weeks of almost regular secret meetings.

Kissinger Arrives in Saigon

Meanwhile, Henry A. Kissinger arrived in Saigon to confer with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam. Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, flew to Saigon from Paris, where he had met with North Vietnamese officials.

For the last three days, President Thieu has denied requests from the United States Ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, to see him. Mr. Thieu has been consulting with Cabinet members and South Vietnamese diplomats recalled from Paris and Washington.

There has been worldwide speculation, but almost no information, that the United States and North Vietnam were working out some kind of settlement of the war.

No Air Raids Reported

A report from Hanoi said there were no expressions of official optimism, but there have been no air raids reported on the capital in the last week,

since the French diplomatic mission was destroyed in an American bombing raid.

The North Vietnamese news conference was held at their compound at Choisy-le-Roi, a Paris suburb. Usually, they hold weekly news conferences at the Hotel Majestic in Paris, where the semipublic peace talks take place.

The formal conference is not being held this Thursday because the Majestic is being used for a meeting of leaders of the European Common Market.

When he was asked whether he saw "a ray of hope" for a settlement, the North Vietnamese spokesman said, referring to a Vietcong proposal: "If

Continued on Page 17, Column 2

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

President Nixon answers seriously and positively the Sept. 11 proposal, there would be not just a ray but a flowering of hope. Unhappily, we are not at that stage."

"Until now," he said, the war "is not settled. Nixon continues the policy of aggression and neocolonialism until today."

Mr. Le also made several references to recent statements of President Thieu insisting that the war would continue until victory.

"Nixon uses Thieu as a spokesman to express the most intransigent U. S. positions," he said. "It's like throwing a stone and putting your hands behind your back. If you look at the words and deeds of Nixon, the deeds always serve to support Thieu."

"Their relations are those between master and agent. There may be some experts who don't get on to well with each other, but the relation is still master and agent."

Whether the North Vietnamese aim was to conceal actual bargaining on concessions, to bolster home-front morale or to influence American opinion, there was no doubt that the spokesman had one point to make and he made it repeatedly. It was, in effect, that there was nothing to support hope of early agreement.

In reply to a question, Mr. Le said his delegation had no immediate plans for another meeting with Mr. Kissinger, though he did not rule out future talks.

In the past, when the North Vietnamese have been asked why they have continued the secret talks if they have been as totally unproductive as the spokesman has indicated, the answer has always been that "we want to show that we seek

a negotiated peace."

Mr. Le emphasized in the news conference Hanoi's assertion that it has shown "maximum evidence of good faith" in the negotiations. He warned, as he did last week, that "the U.S. will have to bear the full consequences if it persists in its aggression."

The spokesman pointed out that United States casualties in Vietnam, dead and wounded, had now reached 400,000—more than in World War I or

Korean war and exceeded only by those in World War II.

He said South Vietnamese Army defections were now running at the rate of 10,000 a month, adding that "this proves the Saigon forces are more and more disheartened by the Nixon-Thieu war."

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong, he said, were determined to continue fighting and to "show extreme vigilance" until they could get "real peace with independence."

From same story, in
SF Chronicle 19 Oct:

... Vietnamese and ... he said, are determined to continue fighting and to "show extreme vigilance" until they could get "real peace with independence."

Formal talks will not be held in Paris today because the site, the Hotel Majestic, is being used for a meeting of leaders of the European Economic Community.

THURSDAY