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PROBABLE ACCORD IS SEEN IN HANOI

But There Is No Conviction
That It Is Definite

The author of the following dispatch is a Canadian correspondent based in London for CTV, Canada's independent television network. He has been on assignment in Hanoi.

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Special to The New York Times

HANOI, North Vietnam, Oct. 21 — The highest authorities here believe that a settlement of the Vietnam war is more probable than not, but there is no conviction that agreement is definite.

The comments of Government and Politburo officials make it clear that not only the broad outline but much of the fine detail of a settlement has been orally reached and that Hanoi would like to seal an agreement immediately.

It is said that there are no major problems remaining that the United States could not resolve, indicating that the problems were between Washington and Saigon. Government leaders here cannot understand that the United States finds it difficult to dictate the peace terms to Saigon. And some doubt of the sincerity of the United States has been indicated.

At the highest level here, the peace negotiations are still described as possibly pre-election acrobatics.

"If it is all for some other purpose [than peace], it is incredible," Premier Pham Van Dong said in an interview this week.

Comments such as that by Premier Dong suggest that the United States has rejected North Vietnamese pressure to sign a settlement before the Presidential election. And one senior North Vietnamese official said that no major developments need be expected until after the elections in the United States.

However, there is persistent speculation in non-Government circles here that a draft of a final settlement will be initialed by Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, and Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, in a few days.

Officially, there is not the slightest hint that this will happen, but it is made clear that the military and political aspects of a settlement can now be separated, allowing for an immediate cease-fire once there is formal agreement. It is also made clear that there is sufficient agreement in principle to raise hopes for further agreement.

'A Man Overtaken'

Hanoi no longer regards President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam and the prisoners of war as intractable issues. The policy is now to downgrade Mr. Thieu, to make him appear an inconsequential figure who would be permitted to remain as leader of the Saigon faction of a coalition government that includes Communists and neutralists.

But it is emphasized that Mr. Thieu has to agree to such an arrangement or go. And Hanoi

seems to believe it will be the latter. "Thieu is a man overtaken by events," Mr. Dong said.

On the prisoner issue, it was made clear that with the formal cease-fire a first round of prisoners could be released immediately, and probably the rest within 90 days. In return, the North Vietnamese expect generous United States war reparations in the form of economic aid.

Premier Dong indicated that reparations have been a large factor in current negotiations.

Virtually nothing about the negotiations is reaching the public here. The party paper, Nhan Dan, has totally ignored the talks. Its editor, Huang Tung, a member of the party Central Committee, explained: "If the Vietnamese know that tomorrow the war might end, then today they might hesitate in their tasks. Hope is one thing, reality another."

In Western capitals, the editor said, Mr. Thieu is presented as a major difficulty, but "I cannot accept this judgment."

"If the servant disobeys," he continued, "the master has only to stop his salary."