

Hanoi Says Thieu Shows That He Opposes Peace

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PARIS, Oct. 24—The North Vietnamese spokesman here denounced President Nguyen Van Thieu's speech today as "new proof that he is obstinately opposed to peace and national concord, that he is extremely belligerent."

The spokesman issued a statement charging that the United States Government was trying "to hide behind Thieu to avoid its responsibilities."

"But this maneuver is shown to be clumsy," the statement said, "because it is common knowledge that the United States put Thieu in his position, and that he is nothing but a tool in their hands."

The statement said that the United States was using Mr. Thieu as a zealous spokesman to obstruct serious peace negotiations and to prolong the war.

A spokesman for the Vietnam delegation to the peace talks said it was natural that Mr. Thieu opposed American disengagement from South Vietnam because without it his Government would not survive. This, the spokesman said, points

to "the contradiction in American policy."

"On the one hand," it said, "Mr. Nixon does not cease to proclaim his alleged desire to put an end to the American engagement; on the other hand he proclaims his continued support for Mr. Thieu. But by supporting the latter, he will have to continue maintaining the American presence in Vietnam. That's a vicious circle."

A group of American lawyers in Paris on their way home from Hanoi held a press conference in which they also cast doubt on chances for peace.

The group, who met with the North Vietnamese Premier, Pham Van Dong, on Saturday, said they were "highly skeptical about reports of an approaching settlement representing a genuine movement toward peace."

The lawyers at the news conference were Joseph Crown of Mamaroneck, N.Y., president of the Lawyers' Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam, Malcolm Monroe of New York City, vice president of the committee, and Lawrence Velve of Washington, D.C.

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