

Final Secret Talks Are Expected 'Soon'

PARIS (AP) — The United States expressed renewed optimism today that secret negotiations will resume soon to put the final touches on a Vietnam peace treaty.

U.S. delegation spokesman David Lambertson told newsmen after the apparently fruitless 166th session of Vietnamese peace talks here: "I am optimistic that an additional private meeting is going to take place relatively soon, that the matters still unresolved will be taken care of and agreement will be reached."

Lambertson declined to elaborate or to indicate whether his remarks were based on reported continuing contacts between Washington and Hanoi through other Communist governments.

Lambertson said the next secret meeting is likely to include U.S. presidential security adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam Politburo member Le Duc Tho, who negotiated the draft agreement last month.

Lambertson said it is up to Hanoi to set the date for any new Kissinger-Tho meeting.

South Vietnamese spokesman Nguyen Trieu Dan reiterated that Saigon would not recognize any agreement reached against its will. Acting South Vietnamese delegate Nguyen Xuan Phong warned the meeting that Communist demands for a halt in American arms shipments to South Vietnam could set the stage for a "still bloodier war."

The United States told North Vietnam at the meeting today that the current buildup of American aircraft and other military equipment in South Vietnam is matched by a similar buildup on the Communist side and will continue until a peace agreement is signed.

U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter told newsmen at the start of the 166th weekly session of the Vietnam peace talks that every day a settlement "comes perceptibly nearer."

But he urged North Vietnam not to be impatient over the delay in reaching final agreement.

"We believe that the soundness and equity of an agreement are vital considerations which, if that agreement is to endure, must not be sacrificed to haste," Porter said in a brief prepared statement to the meeting.

He referred to recent protests from Hanoi and the Viet Cong against the massive shipment of American arms to South Vietnam to beat the cease fire.

This buildup, Porter told the Com-

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munist delegations, "is, of course, similar to what you are seeking to do for your own forces.

"We see in these supply efforts a state of affairs which would be halted by both sides as soon as final agreement is reached. Thereafter, of course, the provisions of the agreement would apply."

The draft agreement would ban shipment of arms to South Vietnam by either side except for replacement of worn-out or destroyed equipment on a one-for-one basis.

In marked contrast to his usual tough tone when addressing the Communists, Porter paid tribute to the "good will and seriousness of purpose" with which he said the North Vietnamese negotiated the largely secret draft agreement.

"Recently, however, a note of impatience has crept into your many public statements," he continued.

"I understand this to be the result of the fact that your hopes and ours for a settlement have not yet been realized. We find this impatience understandable in view of the bitterness of the war which we all desire so much to end.

"For our part, we do not believe in making public statements which might affect the atmosphere adversely at a time when we hope to achieve so much jointly with you. We can and do, however, affirm our good faith as we approach what we believe can be the final stage of our negotiations."

This atmosphere of sweet reasonableness ended when the Vietnamese delegates spoke.

South Vietnamese delegate Nguyen Xuan Phong denounced the North Vietnamese for their "unilateral disclosure" of the draft agreement, accused them of "utterly refusing to engage in meaningful and constructive discussions with us" and repeated his government's demands for "effective and workable" cease-fire arrangements, withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam and freedom of Democratic processes for "the entire

South Vietnamese population."

The Viet Cong foreign minister, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, told the meeting that Saigon's objections to the draft were "a farce staged by the United States in an attempt to renege on the agreements it had accepted."

She again accused the Nixon administration of dragging out the negotiations to bolster the government of President Nguyen Van Thieu "with a view to imposing U.S. neocolonialism on South Vietnam."

She called the hurried shipment of American military equipment to Saigon "acts of war which completely contradict the Nixon administration's talk of peace."

It was absurd, she declared, for Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to claim that the arms shipments would "enhance negotiations." On the contrary, she said, Laird's statement resembled all the other explanations given by the Nixon administration during the past four years "to justify its . . . acts of war escalation."

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