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Hanoi Bids U.S. Doctors Delay Visit

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 — North Vietnam has requested the postponement, for the time being, of a visit to Hanoi by five United States physicians.

The medical group was scheduled to leave on the trip on Wednesday, but a spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, which was coordinating the project, said today that the North Vietnamese sent word on Friday of their desire for a delay. 24 NOV

Subcommittee sources said that, in as much as the visit was designed to survey the needs for postwar medical relief and rehabilitation in the North and was "geared to the end of the war," they had the "strong impression" that an adverse turn in the Paris peace negotiations last week might have led the North Vietnamese to ask for the delay.

Talks Recessed Till Dec. 4

The peace talks were recessed yesterday without explanation until Dec. 4, after six days of meetings between Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, and Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo who has been the North Vietnamese negotiator in the private talks.

Subcommittee sources said that on Wednesday they received the first intimation that North Vietnam wished to have the visit delayed. This was confirmed Friday in a message from North Vietnamese representatives in Paris. 22 NOV

One of the reasons given, the sources continued, was that the North Vietnamese leaders were now "too busy" to receive the Americans.

The subcommittee spokesman said that he hoped the trip could still be made early next year, but that Hanoi had not suggested a specific new date.

The physicians' visit was planned as the result of a letter of invitation from the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Nguyen Duc Trinh, to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, the chairman of the subcommittee. The letter

was received here on Aug. 22.

But the State Department opposed the trip before the conclusion of a settlement of the war, and at one point, Secretary of State William P. Rogers told Mr. Kennedy that the visit might interfere with the peace talks.

But active preparations began after the announcement by North Vietnam and the United States late last month that a peace agreement was near.

The subcommittee's group had planned to fly from New York to Vientiane, Laos, and to board a Soviet airliner there for Hanoi.

Another team was, meanwhile, to undertake a medical relief survey in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Subcommittee sources said that no

decision has been made whether this group would now travel to Indochina.

The group scheduled to go to North Vietnam was to be headed by Dr. Nevin Crimshaw, head of the Department of Food and Nutrition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The other members of the team are Michael Halberstam, a Washington physician; John Levinson, a physician from Wilmington, Del.; Joseph English, president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation of New York City, and David French, a pediatrics surgeon and professor of medicine at Boston University. The team was to be accompanied by Dale S. DeHaan, chief counsel of the Kennedy subcommittee.