

Hanoi Says Deadlock U.S. Fault

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PARIS, Dec. 19—North Vietnam confirmed Henry A. Kissinger's dour impression of deadlock in the now suspended private peace talks today, but laid the blame on the United States.

At a crowded news conference in suburban Choisy-le-Roi, Xuan Thuy, titular head of the Hanoi peace talks delegation, charged that the United States demanded 126 changes in the October cease-fire draft accord, "all but a very few touching on substance."

[A White House spokesman denied Thuy's claim of 126 U.S.-proposed changes, but did not say how many modifications Washington had in fact sought.]

Despite this perhaps understandable North Vietnamese desire to turn around Kissinger's own charges that Hanoi had demanded impossible changes, Thuy indirectly confirmed Kissinger's remarks about the main issues leading to last week's breakdown of the talks.

Thus, although Thuy condemned the "extremely grave" renewed bombing north of the 20th Parallel and charged the United States with "deliberately distorting the truth," those problems clearly emerged as South Vietnamese sovereignty and manning the international cease-fire supervisory commission.

On the sovereignty obstacle, Thuy said that the United States in the October draft accord had accepted the "independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity

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of Vietnam" in keeping with the 1954 Geneva accords which ended the French Indochina war.

"If one understands what that means," he continued, "in that case this is not a complicated matter."

Hammering away on that score, he charged that the 126 changes sought by Kissinger were "attempts to seek modifications of substance" aimed at "perpetuating the division of Vietnam."

But in reply to Kissinger's charges that North Vietnam-

ese insistence on this fundamental question masked future Hanoi's intentions to intervene in South Vietnam's affairs, Thuy dismissed this assumption as a "figment of the imagination."

Calm and moderate in demeanor and language throughout the 100-minute news conference, Thuy also lent credence to suggestions that another major sticking point involved the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord. To be made up of equal numbers of Vietcong, Saigon and neutralist nominees, the council has been rejected by South Vietnam as a disguised form of coalition government. Its mission is described in the draft accord as "activating" the cease-fire and organizing elections.

Thuy said the United States had proposed modifications which "denied the reality" of the existence of "two administrations, two armies and three political forces" in the South. This has been the Communist nationale for the council.

Concerning the international cease-fire supervisory commission, Thuy said the exact strength of each of the four national contingents had not been settled. Indirectly he confirmed Kissinger's statement that North Vietnam wants no more than 250 commission members while the United States favors several thousand.

Thuy noted that after the French Indochina war the 'maximum' strength of the International Control Commission (ICC) for all of Vietnam had been 350. He suggested that since little control activity would be needed in his country after the cease-fire, a smaller number of men could handle the job in South Vietnam.

He dismissed the fact that the ICC had proved ineffective by charging that its problems were solely the fault of the United States, which had sabotaged and disrupted the spirit and letter of the Geneva

Accords in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Thuy charged that U.S. manning proposals for the commission amounted to wanting to "introduce a foreign army of occupation in South Vietnam—thousands and thousands of armed soldiers—thus thumbing its nose at South Vietnamese sovereignty."

Running through a series of Thuy's replies when questioned about the control machinery was the now standard North Vietnamese view that the four contracting parties—Washington, Hanoi, Saigon and the Vietcong—would be the principal guarantors of

any accord.

Thuy dismissed Kissinger's charges that North Vietnam was preparing another offensive to precede and continue after any cease-fire. He said this was "just an absurd pretext" allowing the United States to carry out the escalation against the North and other "evil designs."

He chided Kissinger for going back on his word not to discuss the secret talks in public. Thuy alleged that Kissinger's Saturday news conference and the renewed bombing were linked.

"The United States is trying to deceive Vietnamese, American and world opinion by (seeking) to throw responsibility for the deadlock on the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam," he said, "and to camouflage its intention to intensify the bombing and impose an American solution in South Vietnam by military might."

He also insisted that the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Vietnams was a temporary border set up in 1954 at Geneva and "not a political or territorial limit."

He called on the United States to sign the original October draft accord without delay, a demand North Vietnam has reiterated daily since Oct. 26 when the outline of the draft was published.

Asked if he was not encouraged by Kissinger's suggestion that despite the deadlock both sides agreed on 99 per cent of the accord, Thuy smiled and noted that in October both sides had agreed on 100 per cent of its contents.

Thuy also raised the possibility that, in retaliation for the renewed bombing and mining of North Vietnamese territory, his delegation might cancel scheduled meetings with the United States. A technical meeting of experts attached to the peace talks was scheduled to take place Wednesday.