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Thuy Rejects Peace Talks While U.S. Raids Continue

Hanoi Aide Says Negotiations Will Not Resume Until Attacks North of the 20th Parallel Are Halted

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 — Xuan Thuy, North Vietnam's negotiator at the regular Paris talks on Vietnam, said in an interview made public today that his Government would not resume negotiations with the United States as long as the Nixon Administration continued bombing north of the 20th Parallel.

"The negotiations cannot be carried out under the bombing, under bombs and shells," Mr. Thuy said, referring to the heavy raids in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas that took place all last week. The Administration has said the raids will continue until Hanoi agrees to negotiate "seriously."

Mr. Thuy was interviewed on the American Broadcasting Company program "Issues and Answers." The interview was held in Paris yesterday, with Mr. Thuy speaking through a translator.

Repeating North Vietnam's charges that Washington—and not Hanoi—was responsible for the breakdown in negotiations, Mr. Thuy said the United States was using the stepped-up bombing raids to try "to compel the Vietnamese people to accept United States terms."

"In such conditions, the Vietnamese people will never accept that," he said.

Participant in Private Talks

Mr. Thuy heads the North Vietnamese delegation at the regular, semi-public Paris negotiations on Vietnam. He has also served as Hanoi's chief deputy in the private, and more significant, negotiations between Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser, and Le Duc Tho, the Hanoi Politburo member charged with Vietnam negotiations.

In the interview, Mr. Thuy elaborated on Hanoi's contention that the efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement broke

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down because Mr. Kissinger in November and December sought substantial changes in the draft agreement already negotiated with Mr. Tho in October, which North Vietnam has insisted should have been signed by Oct. 31.

"I think we can say that during the negotiations between [North] Vietnam and the United States in November and December, 1972, the United States' side insisted upon modifications of the principles of the content of the substance of the agreement," he said. He charged that Mr. Kissinger raised "all the demands of the Saigon administration."

The Nixon Administration's explanation for the breakdown, as made public by Mr. Kissinger on Dec. 16 and subsequently amplified in private by Administration officials, is that some time between Nov. 25 and Dec. 4, when the talks were recessed, Hanoi made a fundamental decision not to sign an agreement and that when the talks were resumed on Dec. 4, Hanoi began "stalling tactics," raising one new objection after another.

Hanoi Held Responsible

Mr. Kissinger has acknowledged that some matters of substance remained, but asserted that it was Hanoi's attitude, not any one issue, that prevented the negotiations from reaching what Mr. Nixon regarded as a "just and fair agreement."

Neither Mr. Kissinger on Dec. 16, nor Mr. Thuy, in his interview, provided detailed explanations of why the talks failed.

Both sides do agree, however, that Mr. Kissinger made some new proposals when the talks resumed on Nov. 20, and that Hanoi, beginning Dec. 4, made some counterproposals. Each side says that the other's proposals were unacceptable, although Mr. Kissinger asserts that Hanoi at first, seemed to accept proposals such as the delineation of the demilitarized

zone between the two Vietnams.

After Mr. Kissinger's news conference on Dec. 16, Mr. Nixon ordered the resumption of bombing raids throughout North Vietnam, including heavy attacks by B-52's over the Hanoi area for the first time.

Raids over North Vietnam were ordered in April after North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam, but after the October draft agreement they were limited by Mr. Nixon, in a gesture of "goodwill," to areas south of the 20th Parallel.

French Consulate Damaged

During the earlier bombing raids—from April to October—North Vietnam did not publicly make negotiations conditional on a halt in the raids. In fact, the draft agreement was hammered out on Oct. 11, a day when bombs from American planes struck the French consulate-general in Hanoi.

But Mr. Thuy said in the interview that Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger "on many occasions, promised that while the negotiations are under way, and until the negotiations are concluded, the United States would reduce the bombing of North Vietnam, would stop the bombing north of the 20th Parallel.

"And south of the 20th Parallel, the bombing would be significantly reduced," he declared.

He was asked if, despite the bombing, Hanoi would be willing to sign the original October draft agreement. Mr. Thuy said Hanoi would, but only if the bombings were stopped.

Mr. Thuy then drew a distinction between all bombing and that above the 20th Parallel. He

said: "At least the United States should return to the situation before Dec. 18." That was the day that bombing north of the 20th Parallel was resumed.

Evacuation of Children Cited

The Nixon Administration has bolstered its argument that North Vietnam was not serious about negotiations by citing intelligence information that the Government evacuated children from Hanoi on Dec. 3, apparently in the expectation that the talks would fail.

Asked about this, Mr. Thuy did not deny the evacuation, but said it had been ordered because the American proposals in November included "so many changes and important changes to the agreement" that North Vietnam believed Washington wanted to sabotage the agreement.

Administration officials had no comment on Mr. Thuy's interview. It is difficult from the interview to ascertain what American proposals were still on the table when the talks broke down, which were made and then withdrawn, and which might not have been made in the way described by Mr. Thuy.

Most of the proposals cited by Mr. Thuy had been sought by President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam, and a major purpose of Hanoi's efforts has been to increase the differences between Washington and Saigon by suggesting that Saigon was responsible for the breakdown of the talks.

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