

Hanoi Cool On Hopes For Peace

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

North Vietnam and France both registered strong doubts yesterday about the prospects for any quick and easy accord in the Vietnam peace talks due to reopen Jan. 8.

The evacuation of people and industries from North Vietnamese cities and towns is continuing despite the halt Friday in the American bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong region, Hanoi Radio reported.

Even though new negotiations are in sight, North Vietnam is telling its citizens that they must be on guard for further "war escalation" and attempts by either the United States or South Vietnam to "sabotage" the peace talks. By bracing its own people for new war strains, North Vietnam could be foreshadowing its own hard line in the talks.

In Paris, French President Georges Pompidou, who said he has been exchanging messages with President Nixon, suddenly cautioned that "difficulties which will be hard to overcome" are ahead in the talks.

Pompidou's emphasis on obstacles was a marked turnaround from the persistently optimistic outlook projected by the French government until the Nov. 20-Dec. 13 peace talks in Paris broke down in stalemate.

The French President's remarks indicated that he regarded the extraordinarily heavy, 12-day American bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong region as an added obstacle for inducing North Vietnam to be more conciliatory. Pompidou said he sees no tendency for bombing to cause the North Vietnamese "to make concessions."

Pompidou's remarks were carefully phrased to avoid disclosing the substance of his exchanges with President Nixon. However, Pompidou appeared to be reflecting the mood of the information he received from Washington by cautioning that there is no "U.S. desire to make a deal at any price."

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In Washington, there was nothing on the public scene to dispute that assessment.

Unlike the euphoric Nixon administration mood of October, November and early December, there is now no public talk, or indeed private encouragement, about the prospects for reaching agreement in "three or four days" or any specific time frame when presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho next meet.

Technical-level talks in Paris between the United States and North Vietnam took place yesterday for the first time since Dec. 23, when the North Vietnamese delegation walked out over the resumption on Dec. 18 of American bombing. In Paris, William H. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, met with North Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. No comment was made on the meeting and another was scheduled for Wednesday.

At the White House, Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren announced that President Nixon and Kissinger were beginning late yesterday a series of meetings to prepare for the Kissinger-Tho talks next Monday.

Warren, when questioned about future U.S. bombing policy toward North Vietnam only referred back to his announcement Saturday on the suspension of raids above the 20th Parallel, which did leave dangling a threat of resumption if negotiations break down again.

The White House statement said the bombing will be discontinued "as long as serious negotiations are under way."

North Vietnam's government newspaper, Nhan Dan, in an editorial entitled, "Evacuation an Important Task in Defeating the Enemy," said, "Once again the U.S. imperialists have woefully failed in their dark scheme to use military pressure to subdue us."

Nevertheless, the editorial instructed:

"Evacuation must be thoroughly carried out in populated cities and towns, industrial sites, especially Hanoi and Haiphong," as long as the war continues "because the enemy is a scoundrel" and "we must be constantly vigilant."

"Tens of thousands" of inhabitants of Hanoi already "have left the city," the editorial said, but evacuation must be continued in order to guard against further "war escalation steps."

"Evacuation is a positive

measure," it was said, "to protect the people's lives and preserve our forces in order to prolong the fight until complete victory."

North Vietnamese were told they "have the duty to serve the (evacuated) people properly by supplying them with food, foodstuffs and staple goods so that the evacuees can stabilize their lives quickly."

"After evacuation," Nhan Dan continued, "the organs and enterprises must be separated into many small units working in separate places," and provided with "secure, good bomb shelters."

Although North Vietnam currently is avoiding discussing the impending new Paris talks in any detail, another Hanoi Radio broadcast yesterday warned that South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu is "scheming to perpetuate the partition of Vietnam."

The broadcast said Thieu's "sinister design" is aimed at "the turning of the temporary demarcation line provided for by the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam into a national frontier to perpetuate the division of the country."

Thieu is openly insisting that any war settlement with North Vietnam must recognize the full "sovereignty" of South Vietnam, and officials in his administration say he will refuse to sign any cease-fire accord without such a provision.

In a New Year's address, Thieu said that "Like Germany and Korea, Vietnam is divided into two regions. The military demarcation line between the two states is also

the border between two different social regimes, two ideologies and two different worlds."

By holding to this position, Radio Hanoi charged yesterday, Thieu is trying "to prepare for possible American revision of the peace treaty and for later sabotage" of it.

Under the proposed cease-fire agreement, the Nixon administration would be committed to the 1954 Geneva agreement and a projected one Vietnam. Nixon administration officials maintain that the dispute over "sovereignty" is a "red herring issue," and the American interest is centered on achieving a workable, effective cease-fire accord, with political issues left to the Vietnamese to resolve.

White House and State Department spokesmen continued to refuse yesterday to discuss "the substance of the negotiations." At the United Nations, spokesmen for Secretary General Kurt Waldheim

said he had a two-hour discussion about Vietnam with Secretary of State William P. Rogers last Saturday, while both were vacationing on the island of Eleuthera, in the Bahamas.

Waldheim, who expressed concern about the breakdown of the Paris talks last month and the resumption of bombing, was informed by Rogers of the bomb halt and the talk resumption, and expressed his "deep gratification," a U.N. spokesman said.

Pompidou Sees Difficulties in Talks

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Foreign Service
PARIS, Jan. 2—American

and North Vietnamese experts met today for the first time in 10 days amid uncharacteristic words of caution from President George Pompidou and his foreign minister that major difficulties were still blocking a cease-fire agreement.

Speaking to journalists at a New Year's reception in the Elysee Palace, Pompidou said that "real, precise difficulties which will be hard to overcome" lay in the path of the secret talks, due to resume here next Monday.

Later in the day, Pompidou openly criticized the American bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong as a "sudden and brutal recourse to arms."

Speaking to the diplomatic corps, he said he hoped that a quick Vietnam settlement would have a spinoff for the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, usually optimistic in the most difficult situations, sounded a similarly cautious note in a radio interview. He warned: "I must say very clearly, now that negotiations are beginning again, that the viewpoints on substance have not gotten any closer."

Pompidou disclosed that he had exchanged messages with President Nixon "outside the usual contacts between our two governments," but he declined to give further details.

He noted that "several weeks ago," just before the Kissinger-Tho talks collapsed Dec. 13, "we thought an agreement was about to be concluded." He stressed that despite his regrets about the breakdown, "the simple fact that the conversations will begin again is very important."

"What has happened in the last few days does not show the U.S. desire to make a deal at any price," he said in apparent allusion to the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, "and that should not encourage the North Vietnamese to be very

grateful nor prepare them for concessions." He said he doubted if the North Vietnamese would make concessions for concessions' sake."

Pompidou also said he was "not at all pleased" by the al-

ternation of "conversations, interruptions and bombings and more conversations, interruptions and bombings. I can only hope that this time the negotiations will work."

The American and North Vietnamese technical meeting was held in Choisy-Le-Roi, a southern suburb where the Hanoi delegation to the formal peace talks has its headquarters. Another meeting was scheduled for Wednesday. Heading the American delegation was William Sullivan, a

deputy assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs.

Leading the North Vietnamese was Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

Leading the North Vietnamese last held Dec. 23, when the North Vietnamese walked out to protest American bombing.