

373

Formal Talks Resume

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Hope Is Dim For Quick Settlement

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PARIS, Jan. 4—The deadlocked formal peace conference resumed here today, but basic Hanoi-Saigon differences over South Vietnamese sovereignty provided little encouragement for the rapid conclusion of a cease-fire agreement when the private Kissinger-Tho talks resume Monday.

American ambassador William Porter set a cautious tone at today's 172d session, the first held since Dec. 21, when the Communist delegates walked out in protest against bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.

Addressing the nearly five-year-old conference for probably the last time before becoming the number three man in the State Department, Porter said: "I am not inclined at all to underestimate the problems which exist and which will face us still for some time."

Illustrative of these difficulties were the rival Vietnamese views of South Vietnamese sovereignty, believed one of the major obstacles responsible for the Dec. 13 breakdown in secret talks between Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.

In the view of Saigon ambassador Pham Dang Lam: "The Hanoi authorities cannot fail to acknowledge that there are two distinct states of Vietnam, both internationally recognized, each having its own political regime and exercising its sovereignty on its own territory, as is the case of the two Germanys and two Koreas."

That view implied withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam and the maintenance of the Demilitarized Zone as a de facto political frontier separating the two Vietnams pending eventual reunification.

But both North Vietnamese and Vietcong diplomats denounced these demands as "extremely absurd" and designed to "perpetuate the division of Vietnam" in separate states. They argue that the DMZ set up by the 1954 Geneva accord was simply a provisional military demarcation line.

"Vietnam is one, and the Vietnamese nation is one," main-

See TALKS, A16, Col. 3

U.S. casualties top 100 since bombing escalation.
Page A16

Brandt envoy expected to criticize bombing during Washington visit. Page A15

TALKS, From A1

tained both the Vietcong and North Vietnamese press spokesman, noting that the draft cease-fire accord published last October had won American recognition of this point.

American effort to change this clause in the draft accord, Vietcong press spokesman Tran Van Tu charged, meant that "the United States is preparing all the bases to sabotage the accords once they are signed."

American and North Vietnamese technical experts also met today for the third consecutive day in a record seven hour and 40 minute session. They are working on problems—apparently with emphasis on details governing an international cease-fire supervisory commission—which must be included in any agreement. Another meeting was scheduled for Friday.

But the Communist diplomats strenuously objected to suggestions by U.S. press spokesman David Lambertson that the technical talks were just the kind of "serious negotiations" the White House implied Saturday had been promised in return for the bombing halt north of the 20th parallel.

Especially annoying to the Communists were Porter's formal remarks that "it is not a time for rancor or propaganda" and "my purpose today is not to review this record (of negotiations), much less to assign blame."

Hanoi's deputy delegate Nguyen Minh Vy said after the meeting that "while B-52s continue carpet bombing on my country's territory, provoking mourning and devastation, today at this conference the

American delegate tells us this is not the moment for rancor, but it is the moment to heal wounds.

Serious Negotiation

"While the American side speaks of serious negotiation, it grants full latitude to the delegate of the Thieu administration to rehash unreasonable demands aimed at torpedoing the negotiations."

Denouncing the bombing north of the 20th parallel as "a mad escalation without precedent," Hanoi press spokesman Nguyen Thanh Le ridi-

culed the United States' proclaimed interest in peace.

"Now only acts constitute the criteria" he said "to measure the sincerity of the Nixon administration." He added "Until today there has been no sign showing that the Nixon administration wants peace."

Indeed, the only sign of Communist willingness to compromise was an ambiguous statement by Le about the secret talks between Nov. 20 and Dec. 13. He said, "We firmly maintained our positions, which allowed the settlement

of a certain number of questions, while a certain number of other questions remained unsolved."

However, since he prefaced that remark by reiterating earlier charges that the United States had sought 126 changes of "principle or substance" during that period, he seemed to suggest that whenever problems were solved it was the cause the United States had abandoned its demands.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Tho was scheduled to arrive here from Moscow Saturday morning.