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Hanoi Press Pessimistic On Talks

Hanoi

Only 24 hours after the resumption of the secret Vietnam peace talks in Paris, the Hanoi press is openly pessimistic about the possibilities of reaching an agreement with the U.S.

The Workers Party newspaper Nhan Dan said yesterday that "there is no sign indicating that the negotiations can be fruitful. On the contrary, there are bad signs on the American side."

President Nixon's statement that the bombing raids over the North were simply suspended rather than halted was described by the paper as "worse than the actions of the Chicago gangsters."

It said the U.S. has "not drawn the lesson from things" and has "really lost its senses."

It said: "To threaten to bomb us in the middle of a negotiation is worse than to break into someone's house and force the owner to open the closets under the threat of a pistol."

The paper added that Mr. Nixon "is resorting to intimidation to exert pressure against the North Vietnamese people, while preparing public opinion for a new escalation."

The Hanoi daily Hanoi Moi told the population it must expect an extremely violent resumption of the bombings.

It said: "The combat will continue, and we must be prepared to meet any furious enterprise of the Nixon clique."

This feeling of pessimism among officials and the press but also in the man-on-the-street, the correspondents of Agence France-Presse have noted.

Observers who have lived here for a long time can see is reflected not only in high that the population from the highest official to the lowest domestic servant, expects the worst to happen. But these observers with close and frank contacts with the North Vietnamese feel the massive U.S. air raids carried out between December 18 and December 30 have served to anger rather than demoralize the people.

Agence France Presse