

# Swedish King's Slap At U.S.

STOCKHOLM — (UPI) — King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden called today for immediate peace in Vietnam and said the United States must not resume its "merciless bombing" of Hanoi and Haiphong.

Speaking from the throne in the royal palace, the 90 year old monarch said:

"The Vietnamese people must be given the opportunity to shape their own destiny. The merciless bombing must not be resumed.

"The hopes for establishing peace in Vietnam have not yet been realized. It is essential that a peaceful settlement should be concluded without further delay," the king said in opening the 1973 session of the Riksdag (parliament).

#### Absent

Premier Olof Palme and Foreign Minister Krister Wickman, who had written the king's address and directed Sweden's verbal offensive against President Nixon's Vietnam policy, were seated in front of the throne as the king spoke.

There was no American among the foreign envoys in the diplomats' gallery.

Palme's pre-Christmas statement, indirectly comparing the bombings with Nazi massacres, touched off a diplomatic crisis between Sweden and the United States.

#### Recalled

President Nixon, who has left the ambassadorial post vacant in Stockholm since last August, ordered the recall of the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Stockholm and asked Sweden not to send a new ambassador to Washington.

Nevertheless, the king opened his speech with the traditional sentence: "Sweden's relations with foreign powers are good."