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## The Peace Rumor Spreads in Hanoi

### Hanoi

Rumors of an imminent announcement of a peace agreement between the United States and North Vietnam spread suddenly yesterday evening among various circles in Hanoi.

Within just a few hours this rumor had grown from whispers to assume a definite form among circles in the North Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is the first time in the history of the Vietnamese war that the news of a possible halt in the fighting between Hanoi and Washington has spread so fast in the North Vietnamese capital, observers here noted.

Until yesterday afternoon Hanoi was the city in the world where people appeared the most circumspect on the prospects of the negotiations. These began again, on January 8, be-

tween Le Duc Tho and Henry Kissinger, after North Vietnam had been shaken by bombing raids of unprecedented violence.

Hanoi is not a city which feeds on unfounded rumors.

Yesterday, responsible contacts had allowed correspondents to understand that they should adopt a "wait and see" attitude without dismissing, however, the possibility and the hope that conditions now existed for the balance to lean in the right direction.

Early in the evening reliable Vietnamese sources told of conversations saying military operations between the U.S. and North Vietnam would cease imminently.

Observers here stress that until now these same Vietnamese sources were "vigilant" regarding "new plots" that could be awaited from the Nixon administration.

*Agence France Presse*