

Tho: 'A Great Victory'

PARIS (AP)—North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho said today the Vietnam peace agreement was "a great victory for the Vietnamese people" and contained no secret or tacit understandings on withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam.

On the day after he initialed a cease-fire agreement with Henry A. Kissinger, the silverhaired Hanoi Politburo member told a news conference that President Nixon's December bombing offensive against the North Vietnamese heartland only delayed the agreement, but did not change it.

Relaxed and frequently smiling, Tho told the crowded news conference that the agreement culminated "the Vietnamese people's 13 years of valiant struggle against American imperialism at the cost of innumerable sacrifices and privations."

Asked about the December bombing, Tho recalled that the first wave of the American attack struck Hanoi within a

few hours of his return to consult his government on the secret talks with Kissinger which had been suspended Dec. 13.

"The bombing failed completely," he added. "It aroused violent reaction throughout the world and succeeded only in delaying the negotiations."

Tho avoided a direct reply when he was asked what was foreseen in case the "consultations" between the Viet Cong and the Saigon government failed to agree on a "National Council of Reconciliation and Concord" as provided for in Article 12 of the agreement.

"I have the firm conviction that the Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace and national concord will triumph and that any difficulties on this question will be overcome," he said.

Asked whether there was a tacit understanding on the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops, Tho smiled broadly under the battery of floodlights and replied:

"There is one agreement and four protocols which have been published. These are the complete texts of everything that has been negotiated between the two parties."