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# Hanoi's Leaders Hail the 'Victory'

By Murrey Marder  
Washington Post Service

## Hanoi

North Vietnam last night treated its initialed cease-fire accord with the United States as the "victorious" end to 100 years of Western intrusion into Vietnam, if its terms are carried out.

The Hanoi leadership maintained that it "will strictly implement the agreements" and insisted that "the other side" must do the same.

This is a planned attempt to accentuate the positive, officials acknowledged, and to project the view that the accord, which will be signed Saturday in Paris, should produce "peace" and not merely a transient cease-fire.

## BOUYANT

Premier Pham Van Dong and other ruling members of the North Vietnamese hierarchy were in buoyant spirits at 7 a.m. yesterday when the cease-fire initialing was announced at the Presidential Palace.

In a brief but emotional and colorful ceremony in the marble-columned Presidential Palace occupied until 1954 by the French governor general, the premier announced what was the second cease-fire in a major bitter war with Western powers in 18 years.

Pham Van Dong called it "a very great victory in the long, hard and invincible struggle of the Vietnamese people for the freedom and independence of our country." He termed it a great victory "on three fronts — military, political and diplomatic."

## PLEDGE

He said, "The Vietnamese people will strictly implement the agreements and the other documents which will be signed and demand that the other side concerned will strictly imple-

## First of 46,000 To Die

### Nashville, Tenn.

James T. (Tom) Davis left the rolling hills of the Cumberlandlands for Vietnam 11 years ago and became the first American combat death of the war.

Specialist Fourth Class Davis was killed in a Viet Cong ambush 25 miles north of Saigon Dec. 22, 1961. After him came some 46,000 Americans killed and 300,000 wounded in Vietnam.

"I guess Tom started the cotton-picking thing, didn't he, him being the first one and all," his father said yesterday. "Well, the last one is just as bad as the first."

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ment it in order to insure a lasting peace in Vietnam and contribute to a lasting peace in all Indochina and Southeast Asia."

He added, "Let us hold high the banner of peace, national independence, democratic freedom and national concord."

Members of the North Vietnamese Politburo punctuated each sentence of the premier's remarks with applause and then joined by an audience of foreign diplomats raised glasses of pink Vietnamese liquor to toast the news.

## SPOTLIGHT

Sharing the spotlight were First Secretary Le Duan, Truong Chin, powerful chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee; General Vo Nguyen Giap, defense minister and military architect of the 1954 victory in the French Indochina war and commander of North Vietnam's forces in

the struggle with the U.S. and the Saigon government, president Ton Duc Thang and other leaders.

General Giap, in uniform, was in a particularly ebullient mood. At one point he was heard saying teasingly to Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, "I am Vo Nguyen Giap and I am not dead." This was his answer to recent South Vietnamese reports that Giap had been killed.

When one Western diplomat congratulated Pham Van Dong, the smiling premier replied in French "en fin" — "at last."

## GESTURE

The premier later approached this reporter, the only American journalist now in North Vietnam, for what apparently was intended to be a specific gesture toward the United States.

In a warm, prolonged handshake that continued through a brief conversation, the premier said, "I am very glad to see you here." He said he regretted that the immediate press of affairs would prevent him from granting an interview, but that would be possible another time.

News of the cease-fire initialing was broadcast to the Vietnamese people through streetcorner loudspeakers soon after the mutually embargoed public announcement time of 10 o'clock, just after President Nixon's statement in Washington. Throngs of bicyclists, soldiers, ox cart drivers and other passersby gathered around each loudspeaker for the news, which was repeated at frequent intervals.