

Big Vietnam Peace Rally in Peking

FEB 3 1973

SFChronicle

Peking

Almost the entire Chinese leadership led 10,000 people in a mass rally in Peking yesterday to celebrate the Vietnam peace.

Guests of honor at the hour-long rally held in the vast auditorium of the Great Hall of People were the chief North Vietnamese peace negotiator, Le Duc Tho, and the North Vietnamese foreign minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, who is visiting Peking on his way back to Hanoi from Paris.

Beneath huge Chinese, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong flags on the stage of the auditorium, the North Vietnamese leaders sat with Chinese leaders, including Premier Chou En-Lai, party chairman Mao Tse-tung's wife, Chiang Ching, and the vice chairman of the military commission, Yeh Chien Ying.

Mao, who has not appeared before the Chinese public for nearly two years and was not present yester-

day, received both North Vietnamese visitors Thursday night at his Peking residence.

The rally was addressed first by a Chinese politburo member, Chang Chun Chiao, who spoke of the joy of the Chinese people over the "great victory" of the Vietnamese people over the U.S., which he said had resorted to brutal means of aggression.

In reply, Tho praised the "Jubilant atmosphere of brotherhood" between the peoples of Vietnam and China but also warned that the peace agreement was only an initial victory for Vietnam.

"Our people in both zones — North and South — still have to wage a hard and complex struggle before we can reach our aim of building a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam," Tho said.

Reuters