

Premier in Hanoi Insists on the Ultimate Reunification of Vietnam

The following dispatch, distributed by The Associated Press, is by Louise Hickman Lione of The Philadelphia Inquirer, who has just completed a visit to Hanoi. Transmission was delayed because of review by the North Vietnamese.

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HANOI, North Vietnam Feb. 2—

Pham Van Dong, the Premier of North Vietnam, has declared in an interview that while Hanoi agreed to sign the cease-fire agreement, the two Vietnams must ultimately be reunified.

Mr. Dong was sharply critical of President Nixon's interpretation of at least one vital section of the Washington-Hanoi cease-fire. He referred to the fact that Mr. Nixon, in announcing the agreement on Jan. 23, said the accord recognizes the Saigon Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu "as the sole legitimate government of South Vietnam."

"To say that," Mr. Dong argued, "is to violate the agreement. In the South there is another government, the Provisional Revolutionary Government. The P.R.G. is a signatory of the agreement. How can you erase that?"

On reunification, Premier Dong said: "No one can live with a body cut in half. We cannot live with our country cut in half. We must have reunification."

The agreement states that any move toward reunification must come through peaceful negotiations.

Mr. Dong, a 67-year-old revolutionary born of mandarin parents in what is now South Vietnam, spoke in a salon of the presidential palace here.

"We have signed a peace agreement," he said. "We have no other course than to abide by it. We are a moral people—people of our word. But the peace agreement remains to be consolidated." "Some people say we want to impose a Communist government on South Vietnam," he added. "It is a calumny."

The agreement calls for a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord to organize elections in the South. The council is to include Communists and neutralists as well as representatives of the Thieu Government.

"All our forces," Mr. Dong said, "must be mobilized or brought together in the South, without discrimination, even including former U.S. collaborators. We will try our best to

abide by the agreement and will point out those who violated it."

As for the North, he said: "We will give our best energy, labor and intelligence to quickly rehabilitate and develop our country."

The premier said he expected relations between the United States and North Vietnam to become more normal, noting that this was a goal of Henry A. Kissinger's forthcoming trip to Hanoi.

Normal relations are mentioned in the agreement, Mr. Dong said, adding: "And it is also the decision of the people of both countries."

Quoting from Marx, he said: "History does not put up any questions without answers. If we sit at a table, we can discuss."

With a smile he continued:

"We have more than one way to choose an appropriate conference table."

This was an allusion to the difficulties in deciding on a table when the Paris peace talks started in 1968.

Mr. Dong's interview was given last Friday to United States representatives of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom who were visiting North Vietnam. I accompanied them as a reporter.

"We are a poor country," Mr. Dong said, "rich only in—besides courage and intelligence—children. Anything you can do especially for our children, we thank you."

Asked if he would be going to Washington in the near future, he replied: "Perhaps I shall only be able to visit Washington when a woman is president."

The Premier, who wore a navy-blue uniform buttoned to the neck was personable and warm. The salon in which he spoke was mirrored and marble. It was also decorated with potted peach and orange trees for Tet, the Lunar New Year.