

OTTAWA, IN SHIFT, RECOGNIZES HANOI

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Canada Puts Link on Same
Level as That With Saigon
—No Envoy Is Planned
NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

OTTAWA, Feb. 7—Canada today formally recognized the Government of North Vietnam, giving it "equal diplomatic status" with that of the South.

Mitchell W. Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said the action was timed to facilitate Canada's peace-keeping role in Vietnam and to promote "friendly relations" in Vietnam's difficult postwar reconstruction period.

The United States was advised though not consulted, about Canada's decision, Mr. Sharp told a reporter. He said there was no connection between today's announcement and the visit to Hanoi this week of Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national-security adviser.

"We've been considering this step for a long time," Mr. Sharp observed.

The recognition, which Mr. Sharp explained would fall short of "full diplomatic relations," is so far unilateral. There have been no negotiations between Ottawa and Hanoi, and North Vietnamese officials have not indicated any plans to reciprocate. There will be no exchange of envoys for the present.

Message From Trudeau

In his announcement to the House of Commons this afternoon, Mr. Sharp said that "our act of recognition" took the form of a message from Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau to Premier Pham Van Dong. It expressed Mr. Trudeau's "satisfaction" at the signing of the Paris agreement of Jan. 27 ending the war.

A similar message to Premier Tran Thien Khiem of South Vietnam carried an additional sentence. "I would hope that in the future we shall be able to work together to strengthen the cordial relations which already exist between our two countries," Mr. Trudeau wrote.

While Mr. Sharp emphasized the benefits to come from recognizing both the Hanoi and Saigon Governments, he noted that Canada was the only member of the new International Commission of Control and Supervision to do so. Hungary, Poland and Indonesia, the three other members, recognize only the Hanoi Government.

As a member of the 19-year-old International Control Commission established after the Geneva conference on Indochina in 1954, Canada has long had representatives in the capitals of both Vietnams. But Canada, according to Mr. Sharp, reasoned that to have extended formal recognition to North Vietnam while the war continued would have disturbed relations between Canada and South Vietnam.

Some Members of Parliament said Mr. Sharp seemed to be suggesting that other governments, including the United States, might follow Canada's example in the interests of peace and reconstruction. Answering a reporter's question, Mr. Sharp said that the United States, through Henry A. Kissinger's trip to Hanoi, was registering recognition of North Vietnam "in fact."

No Comment by U.S.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—The State Department had no comment today on Canada's decision to recognize North Vietnam.

A senior Administration official, however, said the Canadian action was not related to anything the United States might or might not do, but rather was the result of Ottawa's decision to establish relations with both North and South Vietnam to facilitate Canada's role in the international supervisory commission.

The official said that United States policy toward recognition of Hanoi was that enunciated by Mr. Kissinger on television last week, that the United States favored it "in principle" but that actual recognition was "far down the road."