

Waldheim Denies Being Slighted in Paris

By ROBERT ALDEN

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 6 — Secretary General Waldheim denied today that he had in any way felt slighted by what had been characterized in Paris as his "shabby" treatment at the Vietnam peace conference.

"I was somewhat surprised by the reports that I felt deeply hurt or got bad treatment in Paris," Mr. Waldheim said at a news conference.

"Well, my dear friends, these remarks are completely unfounded," he said. "I did not suggest my own chairmanship. I knew the delicate position of the United Nations very well."

"If some people now say that I talked too much before the conference," Mr. Waldheim continued. "I can only smile because it's just an invention. On the contrary I kept back very much indeed, knowing the difficult problem" faced by the inclusion of a United Nations representative at the peace conference.

The Secretary General said that "some quarters" had proposed a key role for him at the conference and, consequently, "the same quarters were disappointed when events took a different turn."

It was reported from Paris that during the negotiations between Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho in October, the Hanoi representative proposed that Mr. Waldheim be invited to the international conference to endorse the agreement. Mr. Kissinger accepted this proposal without objection.

But just before and during the conference itself, Hanoi made an all-out effort to prevent Mr. Waldheim from signing the final agreement, and, indeed, blocked Blain Sloan, his legal representative, from

formula "took into account the fact that the Secretary General as head of an international organization could not sign for the 132 member states of the United Nations—in other words I could not commit the membership to the obligation of the treaty."

"It is as simple as that," the Secretary General said. "How could I commit 132 member governments to guarantee the treaty?"

As for the exclusion of Mr. Sloan from the drafting committee, Mr. Waldheim said, this act "should not be dramatized."

"The presence of my representative," he said, "would have mainly served the purpose of explaining the possibilities and the working of the United Nations during discussion of proposals involving the organization."

"Since these proposals were not discussed, my representative was not really necessary,"

the Secretary General said.

In particular, Canada had sought a key role for Mr. Waldheim at the Paris conference and for the United Nations as the international body to which violations of the Vietnam cease-fire would be reported.

When Mr. Waldheim and the United Nations were given a secondary role in Paris, it was Mitchell W. Sharp, Canada's Minister of External Affairs, who described the Secretary General's treatment as "shabby."

At the end of the conference, Mr. Waldheim was asked, "From your conversations with the parties in Paris did you gain the impression that the situation in Vietnam is over the hurdle, that peace is secure, that there is no danger left?" The Secretary General shook his head in puzzlement, smiled and in a voice that was barely audible said, "That's a good question."