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Hanoi Aide Talks of U.S. 'Moral Duty'

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Hanoi

The editor of North Vietnam's Communist party newspaper says the U.S. has a political and moral duty to aid in the reconstruction of his war-torn country.

"We wish for American technology and an exchange of technicians and ideas," Hoang Tung, senior editor of Nhan Dan, the country's chief newspaper, said. "The United States has an obligation to aid reconstruction in Vietnam. We don't mind the name of this contribution, but it is a political and moral duty."

In an interview covering U.S. - Hanoi relations and North Vietnam's future, Tung promised full cooperation to determine the fate of U.S. men missing or dead in North Vietnam.

PLANES

"We know of some American dead and know where they are buried, but it will be difficult to locate all the dead. Many went down with their planes. A systematic search to locate the dead has not started yet, but we will do it," he said.

He accused the U.S. of dragging its feet in removing mines from North Vietnamese rivers and harbors.

"We believe the U.S. commander in charge of demining does not tell us the truth. We think the United States wants to delay demining even beyond the last POW release. The United States uses demining as a bargain to maintain blockage and hinder trade and free circulation, and it is true we have difficulties."

EQUAL

Tung said his country wants normal diplomatic, cultural and commercial relations "on an equal footing" with the United States.

As to commercial relations, he continued, "America has a lot to offer. We have little."

Tung said the end of fighting in Vietnam does not mean an end to the Communist struggle for total victory, as foreseen by the late Ho Chi Minh.

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"We have ended armed conflict but continue to struggle. However, not with military means," he said. "We are not in a hurry with reunification. It is now policy not to use force to achieve this goal. The urgent quest now in South Vietnam is to end conflict to make it possible to solve problems by political means . . . Being patient, we are ready to wait some time."

In another part of the interview he said, "It is our wish to end the war in all of Indochina, including the complicated war in Cambodia, and move to a new era."

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He said Hanoi believes the U.S. has no part in current cease - fire violations but it still could influence South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu and prevent cease - fire violations by South Vietnam.