

# Vietcong's Request To Open U.N. Office Reported Rejected

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 9 — Secretary General Waldheim has informed the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government that it may not open an office at the United Nations, qualified sources reported today.

They said that legal considerations were given by Mr. Waldheim in rejecting the Vietcong's request and that they centered on the point that the Provisional Revolutionary Government was not a member of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies.

On March 31, the Vietcong announced that Nguyen Van Tien, head of the Provisional Revolutionary Government's mission in Hanoi, had been named as its chief observer at the United Nations. The United States, which had opposed the idea from the outset, reinforced its objections in recent days and privately told Mr. Waldheim that it would refuse visas to Vietcong representatives on the ground that they do not represent a government.

By long-standing practice, countries that are not United Nations members have been permitted to have observer offices here if they belong to such agencies as the World Health Organization or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Such offices give access

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to meetings and documents, but more importantly, they permit representatives to circulate freely on the diplomatic scene.

Some delegates suggested that another objection to an office for the Vietcong was that the Saigon Government had an observer office here and that in effect the Vietcong would be trying to represent the same country. The Republic of South Vietnam belongs to 13 United Nations agencies.

The United Nations spokesman confirmed that a response by Mr. Waldheim had been conveyed to the Vietcong but refused to say what that reply was or even how it was transmitted.

"I do not think it will be



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Secretary General Waldheim of the U.N.

made public," said the spokesman, William C. Powell.

The matter of a Vietcong presence here has been viewed as an awkward one for Mr. Waldheim since he disclosed at a news conference in Paris on March 1 that he had discussed the possibility of a liaison office at the United Nations with Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Mr. Waldheim was in Paris at the time attending the international conference on Vietnam.

Since he first mentioned the idea publicly, the impression was left that he might have suggested the possibility. He several times has declined to say how the subject came up.

Mr. Waldheim since his return has seemed to be pulling back from any suggestion that he made any commitment in Paris.

The announcement of a Vietcong representative for the United Nations, made by the Vietcong's delegation in Paris, was viewed by a number of diplomats as having caught the Secretary General by surprise and created additional pressures.