

NYTimes  
**Eternal Triangle?**

JUN 12 1973

After Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho broke off their second effort in Paris to restore the fractured Vietnam peace last week, an American official said that difficulties had arisen due to a "triangular argument" among the Governments of the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

That unfortunately has been the story of Vietnam for nearly two decades. In the interests of stopping Communism, the United States in 1954 became party to an argument among Vietnamese which nineteen years of death, destruction and agony on all sides have been unable to resolve. In spite of the "peace with honor" proclaimed by President Nixon last January, the quarrel persists, the fighting continues and the United States remains heavily involved.

Even if Mr. Kissinger is able to persuade the fractious Vietnamese to agree to some new cease-fire arrangements in Paris this week, the best that can be hoped for is a temporary lull in hostilities. Only a political settlement can eliminate the causes of conflict and, as a Senate staff report noted last week: "There appears to be little prospect that peace will be restored by political means given the apparent continued determination by Hanoi and the Provisional Revolutionary Government to displace the existing structure in the South and given the South Vietnamese Government's adamant refusal to afford either the Communists or the non-Communist opposition any meaningful role in political life."

The persisting intransigence of both sides to the Vietnamese dispute is a tragedy that the whole world deplures. But it is a Vietnamese tragedy that cannot be resolved by third parties. It is a tragedy that can only be prolonged and deepened by the bombs and threats that have been the hallmark of the Administration's intervention for "peace." It is past time that the "triangular argument" over the fate of Vietnam was reduced to its proper dimensions, with the United States withdrawing completely at last to allow the Vietnamese to settle their own affairs.