

'Incredible' Award**Tho's Nobel Irks Saigon****Saigon**

The South Vietnamese government yesterday violently criticized the award of the 1973 Nobel peace prize to North Vietnamese Paris agreement negotiator Le Duc Tho.

Government spokesman Bui Bao Truc said the Oslo decision was "incredible — he does not deserve it."

While stating he has "no

comment" on the nomination of U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the decision to name Le Duc Tho "was like a Mafia chief being praised for his contributions to the church.

"It is like the hypocritical rapist who won the prize for morals.

"It is like the prostitute being elected honorary chairman of the parent-teacher association," Truc

said.

He said that while the citation praised the two men for bringing about the peace agreement, "the U.S. is the only side which has respected that agreement.

"North Vietnam has systematically violated the cease-fire agreement. It has infiltrated more men, weapons, tanks and heavy artillery into the country."

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Tho May Refuse**Paris**

A North Vietnamese official indicated yesterday that Politburo member Le Duc Tho may reject the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him jointly with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"I am only expressing my personal opinion," the official said, "but I would be

very surprised if Le Duc Tho accepts the prize." The official declined the use of his name.

There has been no official comment thus far from Hanoi on the award.

The official said the award was particularly inappropriate because it placed Tho

and Kissinger as peacemakers on the same plane. North Vietnam has never conceded that the Vietnam ceasefire negotiated by Tho and Kissinger was a political compromise, but still describes the settlement as a "great victory" for Hanoi because it forced the U.S. to withdraw all its forces.

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