

Le Duc Tho Spurns Nobel -- for Now

Hanoi

Le Duc Tho, co-winner of the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, said yesterday it is impossible for him to accept the prize because of the situation "which is being maintained in South Vietnam by the Saigon administration and the United States." \*

"When the Paris agreement on Vietnam is observed, when the cannon are silent, when peace has really been reestablished in South Vietnam, then I shall reconsider accepting the prize," he said in a letter to Mrs. Aase Lionaes, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel prize committee.

It had been taken for granted in these quarters that he would simply reject the 1973 prize, reaffirming the wellknown view that "the aggressor and the victim of aggression must not be placed on an equal footing."

Agence France-Press

\*In version broadcast by CBS News from Tokyo, this is translated as "because the U.S. and South Vietnam have continued to commit very serious violations of the Paris Vietnam agreement .... "