

# VIETCONG OFFER A DETAILED PLAN FOR VOTE IN SOUTH

MAR 23 1974

U.S. Deems Proposal Most  
Specific Since Paris Pact  
—New Cease-Fire Asked  
NYTimes

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 22—

The Vietcong today proposed a six-point plan that included detailed provisions for a new cease-fire and the holding of general elections in South Vietnam.

American officials who read the text of the plan said it was the most concrete put forward by the Vietcong since the Paris cease-fire agreement was signed last year. One official said it amounted to a detailed counterproposal to various plans put forward by the Saigon Government.

The document, however, was filled with strongly worded attacks on both the United States and the Saigon Government. It also warned that if Washington and the Saigon Government continued to "violate" the Paris agreement, "they must be held fully responsible for all the consequences resulting from their act," an indirect warning that the Communists might resort to force.

## Plenty to Negotiate

American officials hesitated to predict Saigon's reaction to the proposals, but one official said "obviously there is plenty of meat in both sides' proposals to chew over if the two sides are serious."

Crucial to any movement toward a political settlement in Vietnam—as called for by the Paris accord — would be agreement by the Vietcong and Saigon to hold serious secret talks, something they have not yet done.

The Vietcong turned over their proposal today to the Saigon representative in La Celle-Saint Cloud, outside Paris, where they have had inconclusive talks up to now.

## Six Major Points

The lengthy statement by the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government listed these main points:

¶Immediately end the gun-fire and scrupulously carry out the cease-fire throughout South

Vietnam.

¶Return all captured and detained Vietnamese civilian and military personnel.

¶Immediately and fully guarantee democratic liberties.

¶Quickly form the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord to organize a general election.

¶Conduct really free and democratic elections.

¶Solve the problems related to the armed forces.

Throughout the proposal, the United States was attacked as a supporter of "dictatorial, bel-

Continued on Page 12, Column 2

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

licose and fascist administrations" in Saigon. But the Communists' provisions followed in general those set forth in the Paris agreement.

On the cease-fire, which has rarely been observed in the last year, the Vietcong called on the "two governments" in South Vietnam to "promptly issue a cease-fire appeal bearing the same contents," which would be simultaneously issued by both sides' military forces and broadcast on both radios.

The plan, formally put forth in Paris and Hanoi, called on both sides to inform the international control group in South Vietnam of the cease-fire and to allow it to "effectively exercise its control and supervision of the implementation of the cease-fire."

Of interest to American officials were the Vietcong's plans for the general election. The proposal called for the insuring of "democratic freedoms" such as personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom to hold meetings, as well as the carrying out of the Paris agreement's call for the formation of a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord within months after the cease-fire goes into effect.

It said the council would organize the general election and determine the procedures for the vote—within a year of its formation.

The Saigon Government has made the holding of a general election under international supervision a major plank in its proposals to the Vietcong in Paris. American officials said that more study would be needed to compare the two sides' versions.

In its statement, the Vietcong made no reference to international monitoring of the elections. It said they would be held for the formation of a constituent assembly, "which will draft a constitution in conformity with the people's aspirations and will advance toward setting up an official government for South Vietnam."

The final point, dealing with the armed forces, said that "without foreign interference,"

the two sides should reduce the size of their armies. After the general election and the formation of a new government, they should "promote the building of a unified army for South Vietnam."

It also said that the United States "must put a complete end to its military involvement and its interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs."

The Vietcong warned that if the United States and the Saigon Government "continue to plunge onto the path of violat-

ing the agreement and sabotaging peace, they must be held fully responsible for all the consequences resulting from their acts."

## Saigon Envoy's Rejection

PARIS, March 22 (AP) —

Nguyen Xuan Phong, speaking here for the Saigon Government, immediately rejected the Vietcong plan, calling it "a series of unreasonable demands presented as prior conditions which block all discussion."

He called for private meetings between the two sides to clear the way for "more direct and more open" discussions.

## Raids Said to Increase

SAIGON, South Vietnam,

March 22 (Reuters) — Saigon's top military negotiator said today that Vietcong guerrilla attacks and assassinations of civilians in the Mekong Delta had increased in the last month.

The official, Brig. Gen. Phan Hoa Hiep, said that guerrilla activity in the delta had increased by 11 per cent in March, compared with February. He cited the March 9 shelling of a primary school in Cai Lay where 32 children were killed, as one of the attacks on civilian targets.