

Saigon Aide Denies Accusing The Times Of Voicing a Threat

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 13—A Government spokesman today denied a news agency report that he had accused The New York Times of threatening the Government.

In an interview in his office, Bui Bao Truc, the spokesman, repeatedly denied that he had told United Press International that The New York Times had threatened to write an unfavorable story about the Government if the authorities did not permit the resumption of weekly news conferences by the Viet Cong delegation here.

At a news briefing Saturday that was restricted to Vietnamese newsmen, Mr. Truc was asked about a purported threat by a foreign correspondent to write a hostile story if the Vietcong's news conferences were not resumed. The Vietcong delegation to the Joint Military Commission here, quartered at Tan Son Nhut air base, had held weekly meetings with the press until the South Vietnamese Government isolated the delegation by barring access of Western newsmen to the Communists' compound.

Mr. Truc maintained today

that he had responded to the question in a hypothetical vein, saying that the Government would not tolerate such "blackmail" and would expel such a correspondent in 48 hours.

"When I made that statement," Mr. Truc said today, "I did not have The New York Times in mind."

United Press International reported that Mr. Truc had "later" identified the newspaper in question as The New York Times. Today, on three occasions, Mr. Truc denied this.

Alan Dawson, chief of United Press International's Saigon bureau, issued the following statement:

"Our reporter, Nguyen Anh Tuyet, spoke to Mr. Truc immediately after the briefing about the alleged blackmail threat by a major newspaper. Mr. Truc identified the paper during the discussion as The New York Times.

"Mr Tuyet felt and feels that Mr. Truc was speaking as a Government spokesman and he so identified Mr. Truc in the U.P.I. story."

Several South Vietnamese news organizations identified other foreign news organizations as the presumed target of Mr. Truc's statement.

James M. Markham, chief of The Times's Saigon bureau, has said that no one in the newspaper's bureau had made any threats to the Government.