

Hanoi Hinted at Offering Proof of Nixon Pledge

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—The North Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister indicated to visiting members of Congress that if the Ford Administration denied that former President Richard M. Nixon had pledged \$3.25 billion in postwar American aid, Hanoi might make the supporting documents public.

This recounting of a conversation in December between Deputy Foreign Minister Phan Hien and members of the House Select Committee on Missing in Action, led by Representative G. V. Montgomery, Democrat of Mississippi, is contained in a memorandum by a committee consultant obtained by The New York Times.

An Administration spokesman refused today to deny or confirm publicly the aid pledge, reported yesterday. Privately, however, a State Department official said that Mr. Nixon had made such a pledge in a letter dated Feb. 1, 1973.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said today that regardless whether there had been a private communication, the issue became moot because of Congressional opposition to the aid and because of violations of the Paris truce accords of January 1973 by the Hanoi Government.

Letter Was Not Shown

According to the committee consultant's memorandum, Mr. Hien said that Mr. Nixon's letter stated that "the Government of the U.S. will contribute to the postwar reconstruction of North Vietnam without any political conditions."

Mr. Hien did not show the members of Congress the letter. They did not ask him the mean-

ing of the phrase "without any political conditions," and a State Department official said today that he could not explain it, "but it must have something to do with the Americans missing in action."

The consultant's memorandum, written by Gareth Porter, who accompanied the delegation to Hanoi, comes to the same conclusion. Mr. Porter's memorandum contends, in effect, that United States obligations on postwar reconstruction aid in the Paris accords were linked only to North Vietnamese obligations in the accord to provide information on Americans missing in action.

According to Mr. Hien, the United States-North Vietnamese Joint Economic Commis-

sion set up under the Paris accords reached agreement on a total of \$3.25 billion in grant aid over a five-year period. The document given to the American representatives contained a detailed list including a thermal power station of 1,200-megawatt capacity, prefabricated housing and a steel mill with an annual capacity of one million tons.

The agreement on aid was to be signed on July 23, 1973, when, according to Mr. Hien, the United States "demanded political conditions."

The Nixon letter, according to Mr. Porter's notes of Mr. Hien's reading, concerned "the principles guiding the participation of the U.S. in the reconstruction of North Vietnam after the war."