

## U.S. Invites Talks With Hanoi, Says It Hopes for Normal Ties

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26—The Ford Administration has delivered a message to the North Vietnamese inviting discussion of all issues related to Vietnam that it says it hopes will lead to the eventual normalization of relations between the two nations.

The announcement was made early this morning by Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Democrat of Mississippi and chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia. It was confirmed by President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Mr. Kissinger told reporters that the key issue for the United States was to get information and cooperation from Hanoi concerning the approximately 850 American servicemen still missing-in-action. He also stated that he was interested in discussing restraints on North Vietnam's behavior in the rest of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Kissinger said that Hanoi was free to raise an issue it wished but that there is not much prospect for American aid.

### Vital Issue to Hanoi

North Vietnamese leaders have stated that postwar reconstruction aid from the United States is a vital issue of principle. Congressmen who have talked to them in recent months have said that Hanoi is "realistic" in not expecting much aid but that it wants some.

Hanoi has said that former President Nixon pledged in a note dated Feb. 1, 1973, to give North Vietnam \$3.25 billion in postwar reconstruction aid "without political conditions." North Vietnamese leaders have indicated that this was their price for having signed the Paris cease-fire accords at that time.

North Vietnamese leaders stated to visiting Congressmen in December that if the Administration was prepared to honor the principle of reconstruction aid, they would be helpful on the matter of Americans missing-in-action.

Various Congressmen and peace groups today stated their concern that the Administration's announcement of the opening to Hanoi really represented an attempt to head off

Congressional approval of an amendment lifting the trade embargo on Hanoi.

Such an amendment passed the House of Representatives by a substantial margin and is now being discussed by a House-Senate conference on the foreign aid bill.

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, said that the apparent shift in Administration policy must not be used "as a club to knock out provisions in the foreign aid bill that would open the door to trade relations between the two countries."

He added that if the provision is dropped by the House-Senate conferees, "we might find that the announced plans for talks with Vietnam will have been postponed indefinitely."

A similar warning was sounded by Friendship, an organization of some 40 peace and religious groups.

A high State Department official said that the Administration message, which was delivered yesterday by a member of the American Embassy in Paris to a member of the North Vietnamese Embassy, was serious and in no way connected with the lifting of the trade embargo. He denied that Mr. Kissinger wanted to hold the prospect of trade in reserve as a bargaining issue with Hanoi.

### 'Without Preconditions'

The official said that the invitation to discussions was made "without preconditions on our part" and expressed the hope that Hanoi would respond favorably.

This official also maintained that the amendment lifting the trade embargo had little chance of passage. Others on Capitol Hill disagreed.

"I do not know what the Vietnamese reaction will be at this time," Representative Montgomery said in a statement issued by his office. "However, they told us last December they wanted to talk, and we can only hope this is still their position."

Mr. Montgomery and members of his committee had been seeking a meeting with Mr. Kissinger since January. Mr. Kissinger received them on March 12.