

Diplomatic Moves Go On To Slow War In Viet Nam

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Diplomatic moves are going on to slow down the war in Viet Nam and bring the warring nations to the conference table. It was disclosed Friday.

The Washington Evening Star says Russian officials are "hinting to U.S. diplomats that cessation of bombing raids on North Viet Nam probably would lead to some concessions from the Communist side — and a start on negotiations to end the Viet Nam War."

The New York Times says in a series of unpublicized and indirect approaches to North Viet Nam, the United States now is offering to exchange demonstrations of a desire to slow down the war.

The Johnson administration is specifically said to be urging the Hanoi government to consider a withdrawal of all or part of the 325th Division of the North Vietnamese Army from South Viet Nam in exchange for a reduction in U.S. military actions, including the bombing of North Viet Nam. The Times says.

A United Nations spokesman disclosed that Secretary-General U Thant has sent new ideas on Viet Nam peace to some of the parties involved in the conflict. "SENT IDEAS"

The spokesman declined to say which parties were involved or what channels were used. U Thant has "sent new ideas to some of the parties concerned," the spokesman said. "I can't go beyond that."

The Associated Press reported that it was assumed that North Viet Nam and the U.S. must have been among the governments included. U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg has seen U Thant several times in recent weeks.

The AP said there was some speculation Algerian Ambassador Tewfik Bouattoura may have been U Thant's channel for dealing with North Viet Nam and perhaps China, if the Peking government was one of those U Thant got in touch with.

The Evening Star in its Washington story says: "Reports are being received from many world capitals and the United Nations on the Soviet diplomatic suggestions. Similar discussions have taken place" in Washington.

The Evening Star says the Russians believe North Viet Nam and the Viet Cong will not negotiate under U.S. military pressure "since this would result in a loss of face."

WOULD RESPOND

"Rather, if the United States as the greater world power offers to stop bombing unilaterally, it is quite probable North Viet Nam would respond in some similar manner, the Soviet diplomats say."

"From there, it will be easy

to get to a negotiating table, the Russians say.

U.S. officials have noted an upsurge of interest by Soviet diplomats in the Viet Nam War, and apparently a sincere interest on their part to find some way to end the fighting."

The newspaper says further that "Soviet officials have hinted that they have assurances from Hanoi that following a unilateral U.S. stoppage, there would be some reciprocity."

The New York Times says in its Washington story the North Vietnamese are said to be receiving unidentified third-party representatives with evident interest, although they have not yet given anything that might be construed as a reply to the reported U.S. approach for slowing down the war.

The Times says some informed sources believe a response may be received or become discernible within a week or two.

Hanoi never has closed the door to diplomatic contacts, but something about its reception of

the current round of messages has suggested a greater interest. The Times adds.

Washington's position has been that the air raids on North Viet Nam may be halted if Hanoi undertakes some reciprocal action toward a peace settlement.

CELEBRATE VICTORY

NICOSIA (Reuters) — Some 700 Armed Turkish - Cypriots marched through their sector of Nicosia Monday celebrating the 43rd anniversary of Turkey's victory over Greece in Asia Minor. The marchers carried rifles and sub-machine guns. Mortars and anti-tank guns were mounted on vehicles. Vice-President Fazil Kutchuk took the salute together with Turkish charge d'affaires, Faruk Shahinbash.

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