

conference shunned the term "war reparations" when it was used in a question by a French journalist. Hien said, "We never use the words 'war reparations.'" It is well known that many industrialists throughout the U.S. are eager to get involved in Vietnam especially before it is fully dominated by the Europeans and Japanese whose involvement is growing rapidly.

The U.S. refusal to lift even the trade embargo until after the establishment of relations, and its refusal to even discuss the question of aid are clear answers to the Vietnamese demands. The Vietnamese have made clear that the trade embargo must be lifted immediately.

The Administration's "no aid" position was backed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Speaking before the American Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Washington, D.C. last Tuesday he said, "It is absolutely absurd for the Vietnamese to say they have a right to U.S. economic aid." His remarks cost the Chamber \$5,000 although it is said that Kissinger wanted \$7,500 for the appearance.

The present talks, which are to resume in two weeks, parallel those going on with Cuba in which the Carter Ad-

ministration is seeking concessions by President Castro in return for normalization. Such concessions include a general retreat from the Cuban political and diplomatic initiatives made in Africa and Latin America. While Carter talks peace in Paris, he is busily trying to break up any regional detente from coalescing between the Communist states of Indochina and non-communist states of Southeast Asia including Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines and Burma. The primary vehicle for this is the U.S. backed military junta in Thailand where anti-Vietnamese provocations continue. For the last week Vietnamese refugees have been arrested through the North Eastern region of Thailand; an act that has drawn sharp attacks from the Vietnamese in the past. Also there are ongoing border provocations and subversive activities by the CIA-linked Thai military and police units aimed at Vietnam-allied Laos.

The Paris talks take place exactly two years after the U.S. defeat of April 1975 and nine years to the week of the initial Paris peace talks under the Johnson Administration. The top negotiators at that time were none other than Averell Harriman, a top Carter foreign policy advisor and Cyrus Vance, Carter's Secretary of State.

Vietnam Calls Aid From U.S. 'Undeniable Obligation'

Excerpts from Nhan Dan :

"The U.S. contribution to healing the wounds of war and to post war reconstruction in Vietnam is an undeniable obligation." It is not only rooted in the 1973 Paris agreement but in "international law, morality and human conscience...Vietnam made clear to the U.S. Presidential Commission last March that we are ready to look forward to the future, but it is impossible to completely separate the future from the past because the past has left a number of questions which if not satisfactorily solved will create obstacles to the normalization of relations between the two countries.

"We will give the U.S. information about the Americans missing in action and will satisfactorily settle the question concerning the remains of those known to have died in the war. Results obtained in

the process of investigation and research will be communicated to the U.S. as soon as possible.

"Vietnam has told the U.S. side that it is prepared to create favorable conditions for an American contribution to postwar construction in Vietnam....The U.S. side, however has not given any indication that it will abandon its erroneous policy. On the contrary it has spread slanders against the Vietnamese government's correct policy and does not say anything about its obligation and responsibility for helping to heal the wounds of war and reconstruct Vietnam, This is not right and is not in line with the professed desire of the U.S. to open a new dialogue, a new era in the relations between the two countries. To make the current dialogue successful, the attitude of the U.S. must suit realities and U.S. statements."