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BASIS FOR TALKS SPURNED BY HANOI

'San Antonio Formula' Is
Called 'Insolent Condition'

By EDWARD K. WU

[Hong Kong Bureau of The Sun]

Hong Kong, Jan. 21—North Vietnam today rejected President Johnson's basis for peace talks as contained in his State-of-the-Union message and reiterated that the end of United States bombing must be "definitive and unconditional."

It called the "San Antonio peace formula" a "very insolent condition" which has further exposed the "extremely bellicose nature" of the United States.

Nhan Dan, the Hanoi daily which speaks for the North Vietnamese Government, said editorially that the President, by repeating his San Antonio formula of last September, was "only beating about the bush" to cope with world public opinion following the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister's December statement on peace talks.

Cites Public Opinion

It claimed that public opinion favors unconditional cessation of bombing of the North to pave the way for the settlement of the Vietnam issue.

President Johnson said in his message that the United States was exploring the meaning of Hanoi's recent statement.

Hanoi's Foreign Minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, said North Vietnam "will" hold talks with the United States after the

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bombing of the North is stopped. His use of the categorical future "will" instead of the previous "could" has led to speculations that Hanoi has modified its peace stand,

"Aggressive Act"

Obviously referring to President Johnson's statement in the State-of-the-Union message that "the other side must not take advantage of our restraint as they have in the past," Nhan Dan said the United States has no right to ask reciprocity from North Vietnam.

It added: "It is clear to everybody that since the United States is overtly bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—an independent and sovereign state—it must definitively and unconditionally put an end to this aggressive act.

"The United States has no right to put any condition to the Vietnamese people. . . .

"Habitual Trick"

"The so-called San Antonio formula is but a habitual trick of the United States to put on the same footing the aggressor and the victim of aggression, and to force the Vietnamese people to give up struggling in face of continued aggression."

Commenting on President Johnson's remarks on political and military successes in South Vietnam, the paper said:

"He [the President] claimed that three elections were held in South Vietnam last year, but he kept mum about the fac'

that these elections were conducted under the control of half a million American occupationist troops.

"He also trumpeted that the United States was winning, but he had not enough heart to tell that American casualties in South Vietnam in 1967 almost doubled that in the previous year according to the United States's own statistics."

It noted that recent words and acts of the United States have convinced Hanoi that the United States is "obdurately continuing its war of aggression and making more and more insolent conditions despite its heavy defeat in Vietnam."

The Vietnamese people, it said, would brave all sacrifices and hardships to smash all "acts of war expansion and intensification."

The editorial was broadcast by the North Vietnam news agency monitored here.