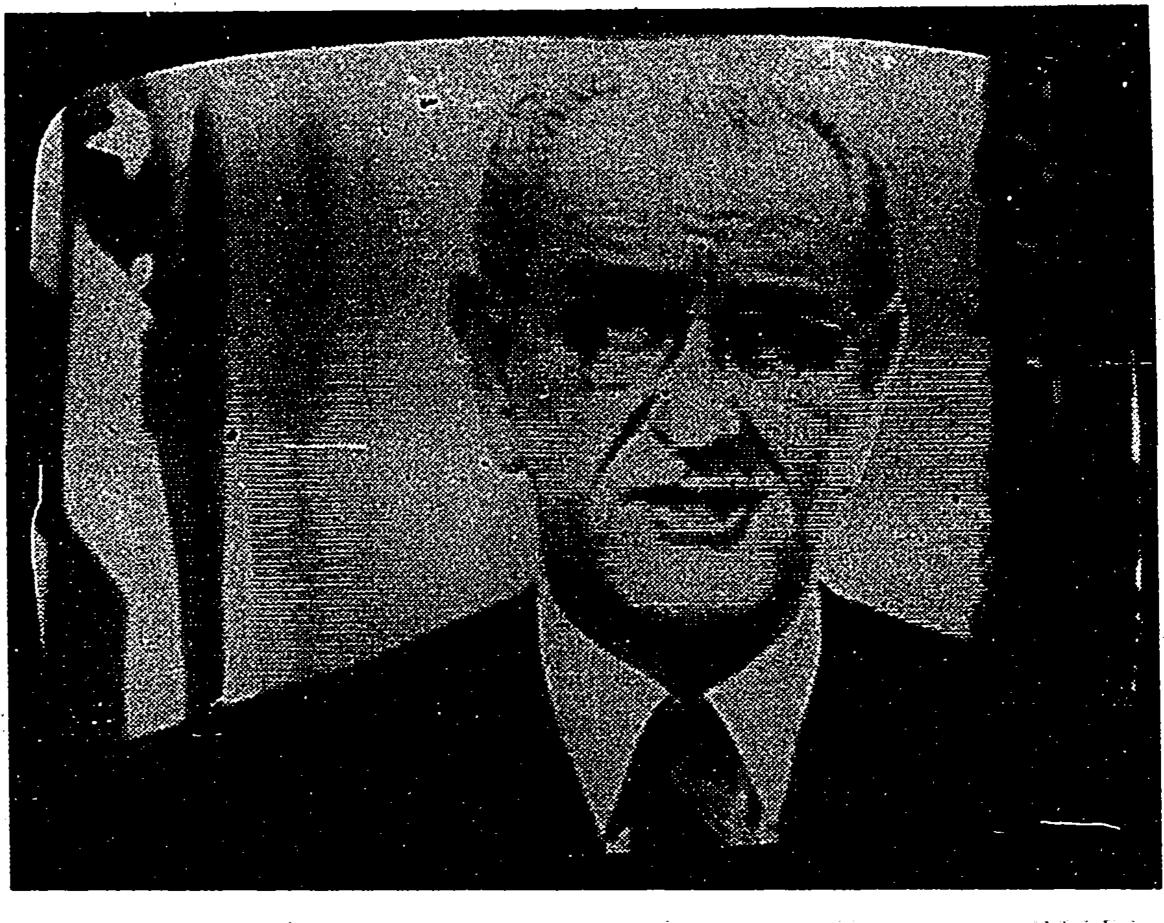
ATTACKS ON NORTH VIETNAM HALT TODAY; JOHNSON SAYS WIDER TALKS BEGIN NOV. 6

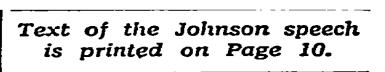


ANNOUNCING HALT: President Johnson as he was seen on television yesterday

John Soto for The New York Times

PEACE CALLED AIM

Saigon and N.L.F. Can Join in the Enlarged Paris Discussions



By NEIL SHEEHAN Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31-President Johnson announced tonight that he was ordering a complete halt to all American air, naval and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam as of 8 A.M. Friday, Eastern standard time (9 P.M., Vietnam time).

"I have reached this decision on the basis of the developments in the Paris talks," the President said, "and I have reached it in the belief that this action can lead to progress toward a peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese war."

"What we now expect-what we have a right to expect," the President said in a television broadcast, "are prompt, productive, serious and intensive negotiations in an atmosphere that is conducive to progress."

Face Shows Fatigue

His face showed fatigue as he made the announcement culminating weeks of secret negotiations.

Mr. Johnson did not announce any reciprocal military commitments from North Vietnam, which he has often said he must have in order to halt the air and naval bombardment that began on Feb. 7, 1965.

[Word of the President's action reached Paris about 2 A.M. Friday, and North Vietnamese negotiators said they might have a statement later in the day. Page 11.]

Washington officials said the bombing of infiltration trails in Laos would continue and that there was no prohibition against reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam.

'Reason to Believe' Foe

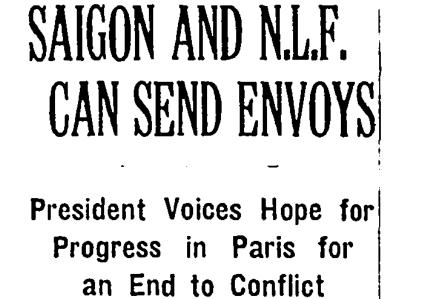
Senior Administration sources said the United States had "reason to believe" North Vietnam would not escalate the war in South Vietnam as a result of the bombing cessation.

They said Hanol "clearly understood" that Mr. Johnson would resume the bombing if it attacked South Vietnamese population centers or took military advantage of the demilitarized zone.

On its side, North Vietnam had apparently not obtained the unconditional bombing halt it has consistently demanded.

Mr. Johnson said that in exchange for the bombing halt Hanoi had agreed to accept participation of the South Vietnamese Government at the Paris talks and the United States had in turn accepted the Continued on Page 11, Column 1

Attacks on North Vietnam Halt Today; Johnson Says Wider Talks Begin on Nov. 6



Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

participation of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front, the Vietcong guerrillas. "A regular session of the

Paris talks will take place on Wendesday, Nov. 6, at which the representatives of the Government of South Vietnam are free to participate," Mr. Johnson said, and continued:

"We are informed by the representatives of the Hanoi Government that the representatives of the National Liberation Front will also be present."

Mr. Johnson said of the presence of the fronts' representatives, "I emphasize that their attendance in no way involved recogniion of the National Liberation Front in any form."

Administration sources said Hanoi would announce that Washington had agreed to an unconditional halt in the bombing and that the United States would not dispute this.

"We have reached the stage where productive talks can begin," the President said. "We have made clear to the other side that such talks cannot continue if they take military advantage of them. We cannot have productive talks in an atmosphere where the cities are being shelled and where the demilitarized zone is being abused."

Mr. Johnson felt it necessary "to caution you, my fellow Americans, that arrangements of this kind are never foolproof."

Broadcast Delayed 5 Hours

Prior to the broadcast, recorded at 3 P. M., but delayed for five hours, Mr. Johnson explained his decision to halt the bombardment of nearly three years and nine months duration to a meeting of senior Government officials in the Cabinet Room of the White House.

Virtually the entire top level of the Government was assembled to hear him announce the end of a strategy that had cost the lives of 752 Air Force and Navy airmen, 914 American combat aircraft and had reduced to rubble the budding industrial plant of North Vietnam and much of its laboriously constructed communications network. The President opened the

Cabinet Room meeting at 6:30 **P.M.** Mr. Johnson's decision was

Hanoi "clearly understood" that after the broadcast that he had the United States would resume "strongly recommended to the bombing if North Vietnam took President that he make this military advantage of the cessafurther move toward peace in tion. General Abrams is understood

to have told the President he could accept the military consequences of a bombing halt if the present state of virtual disengagement between allied and enemy forces in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam continued. President Nguyen Van Thieu

of South Vietnam met with his advisers in Saigon on Tuesday and yesterday, the sources said. and informed Mr. Johnson this afternoon that he was prepared to go along with the American plan. Communique Discounted The South Vietnamese Gov-Argentina. The President looked exernment said in a communiqué released in Saigon that the tremely tired and his voice was United States had "unilaterally" hoarse, but he was otherwise taken the decision to stop the in good spirits. His lined face bombing. broke into a smile frequently Administration officials were and he joked with photogranot alarmed by the statement phers. and said they expected remarks The first indication that the that sounded contradictory for announcement would be made local political reasons. They tonight came at the White House at 5:45 this afternoon. said President Thieu supported the American position. George Christian, the press

the West Wing and said that no one would be permitted to leave the room until he had finished speaking.

Vietnam." Mr. Clifford said the success of allied military action in South Vietnam and "the understandings, reached in the course of the protracted negotiations in Paris, give us the requisite reason to believe that North Vietnam will not attempt to take advantage of this bombing halt."

During his long and tiring

secretary, summoned reporters

to his white-paneled office in

In a Texas drawl as calm as he could make it. Mr. Christian announced that the President would go before the television cameras "any time after 8 P.M. tonight for a statement." Mr. Christian's announcement brought shouts from reporters.

Men and women in the milling group pushed and shoved their way through to telephones.

One reporter turned and

communicated to a deeply divided nation in the turmoil of the final days of a presidential campaign.

The announcement, just five days before the election, was certain to have serious political effects, although it was too early to estimate the impact accurately.

Many political observers believed the move was sure to help the Democrats, but they

were uncertain of how much. Senior administration sources said all three Presidential candidates had supported the President's action.

Urges 'United Voice'

In his television address, Mr. Johnson asked the candidates not to criticize him. He said that "throughout the campaign we have been able to present a united voice supporting our government and supporting our men in Vietnam."

The President contended that his decision "very closely conforms" to his prior public statements on the subject of a bombing cessation and went to some lengths to assert that he had the full support of Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, the American military commander in South Vietnam, and other leaders.

"Now, as a result of all these developments," he said, "I have now ordered that all air, naval and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam cease as of 8 A.M., Washington time, Friday morning."

Mr. Johnson said he had decided "to take this step now and to really determine the good faith of those who have assured us that progress will result when bombing ceases and to try to ascertain if any early peace is possible." "The overriding consideration that governs us at this hour is the chance and the opportunity that we might have to save human lives, save human lives on both sides of the conflict," the President said. North Vietnamese Informed Senior Administration sources said North Vietnam was informed today of the President's decision. They would not say how the decision was communicated. The President stopped the bombing, the sources said, as part of an agreement North Vietnam accepted on Sunday. The agreement contained three elements: the United States would stop all bombing of North Vietnam; South Vietnam and the Front would both participate in the Paris talks, and the enlarged discussions would begin as soon as the delegations from Saigon and

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford said in a statement

day today, Mr. Johnson made only one public appearance before his broadcast. He accepted credentials in the Fish Room of the White House at noon from the new ambassadors from Ethiopia and

asked Mr. Christian, who was smiling and watching the tussle at the door, if he was happy. "I'm not making any comment," he said as his smile broadened.

the Front arrived in Paris. The sources asserted that

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