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CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM: While the communiqué issued at the end of Le Duan's and Pham Van Dong's visit to China contains warm words of praise for the great friendship between the two countries, it reflects a good deal of hard bargaining. Indeed, on one important point--the implementation of the Paris accord--the two sides apparently could not agree on language.

The section dealing with the accord contains unilateral North Vietnamese and Chinese statements, along the lines of last year's US-China communiqué. Hanoi's statement is full of harsh criticism of the US and Saigon, which are blamed for all shortcomings in implementation. The Chinese section merely praises the Vietnamese Communists' "efforts" to implement the accords and states that Peking supports their efforts to "consolidate the peace in Vietnam and safeguard the results already gained." There is no condemnation of the US or its allies, and the language suggests that the sort of backing the Chinese are prepared to give the North Vietnamese in the future is sharply limited.

Chinese aid may also have been a contentious subject. The North Vietnamese are full of praise for past Chinese support, and the Chinese say they will fulfill their "internationalist duty" by helping the Vietnamese Communists "safeguard and consolidate peace, build socialism in the North, achieve independence and democracy in the South," and eventually achieve reunification. North Vietnamese expressions of gratitude for future aid are strikingly absent, however.

Taken as a whole, the communiqué strongly suggests that there have been some significant adjustments in Sino - North Vietnamese relations as a result of the visit, both on a general level and

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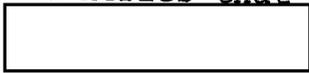
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in regard to the nature of an Indochina settlement. The cloudy language of the communiqué, however, leaves the specific nature of that adjustment in some doubt.

Le Duan and Pham Van Dong are now back in Hanoi after only a brief tour of the Chinese countryside. Further travel by Le Duan seems unlikely, but a ceremonial junket by Pham Van Dong to the countries that have aided Hanoi remains possible.



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ITALY: Prime Minister Andreotti's resignation scheduled for today will open the way for negotiations aimed at reviving Christian Democratic collaboration with the Socialist Party. Andreotti's year-old coalition, which included the conservative Liberal Party, had been the first to exclude the Socialists in nearly a decade.

Andreotti's imminent resignation is the result of the loss of parliamentary support and by developments at the Christian Democratic Party congress. Just before the congress, the Republican Party--whose parliamentary votes gave the coalition its survival margin--put the government in a minority by withdrawing support, following a dispute over government restrictions on cable television.

At the Christian Democratic meeting that ended Sunday, the party's major faction leaders agreed to seek restored relations with the Socialist Party. The Socialists are receptive to the move. Long and difficult bargaining, however, will be required to work out specific terms for another partnership. Among the more contentious issues will be the content of a new center-left program and the question of Socialist autonomy from the powerful Communist Party.

Andreotti will probably remain head of a caretaker government during the negotiations. The Christian Democrats are scheduled to choose a new party secretary on Sunday and to begin negotiations with the other parties next week. Interior Minister and former center-left prime minister Rumor is a reported front-runner to succeed Andreotti as prime minister, while veteran party leader Fanfani may become the new party secretary.

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