

**July 7, 1972**

**Summary of Zhou Enlai's Talk with Xuan Thuy, Head  
of the DRV Delegation to the Paris Talks, in Beijing**

**Citation:**

"Summary of Zhou Enlai's Talk with Xuan Thuy, Head of the DRV Delegation to the Paris Talks, in Beijing", July 7, 1972, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Zhou Enlai waijiao huodong dashiji, 1949-1975 (Chronology of Zhou Enlai's Diplomatic Activities, 1949-1975) (Beijing: Shijie zhishi chubanshe, 1993), p. 636. Translation from CWIHP Working Paper #22, '77 Conversations between Chinese and Foreign Leaders on the Wars in Indochina, 1964-1977' (May 1998).

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/111532>

**Summary:**

In an excerpt from the talk, Zhou Enlai stresses the importance of the time between July and October 1972 for the Vietnam War.

**Original Language:**

Chinese

**Contents:**

Transcript - Chinese

Translation - English

7月7日下午5时40分，在人民大会堂会见越南劳动党中央书记处书记、出席关于越南问题的巴黎会议的越南政府代表团团长春水部长、越南外贸部副部长李班等。春水通报巴黎会谈情况，越方准备两种可能性：一方面作继续打的准备；另一方面也不放过任何在合情合理的基础上谈判解决的机会。周总理通报向基辛格博士关于越南问题的会谈情况，指出越南战争是继续打下去，还是美国有所松动谈判解决，今年7、8、9、10这4个月是关键时刻。

ZHOU ENLAI AND XUAN THUY, LY BAN[1]

Beijing, 5:40 p.m., 7 July 1972'

Xuan Thuy: The DRV is prepared for two possibilities: on the one hand to be ready for the continuation of the war and on the other hand not to miss any opportunity to achieve a negotiated settlement on a reasonable basis.

Zhou: Whether the Vietnam War will continue or end in a negotiated settlement because of the concessions from the United States, the four months from July to October this year will be a crucial period.

[1] The participants on the Vietnamese side included Ly Ban (DRV vice minister of foreign trade) and Ngo Thuyen; on the Chinese side Lin Biao, Zhou Enlai, Kang Sheng, and Huang Yongsheng (CCP Politburo member and PLA chief of staff).