

From transcript (as carried by NYTimes 19 Jan 73) of press briefing by Ronald L. Ziegler, Key Biscayne, 18 Jan 73:

[Ziegler:] We have the following announcement to make this morning, which is embargoed for 12 noon, E.S.T. This is an agreed joint announcement between the United States and the North Vietnamese.

"Dr. Henry Kissinger will resume private meetings with Special Adviser Le Duc Tho and Minister Xuan Thuy on Jan. 23, 1973, for the purpose of completing the text of an agreement."

That is the end of the agreed statement.

Q. An agreement?

A. For the purpose of completing the text of an agreement.

[Answering later questions, Ziegler said: "Dr. Kissinger is returning to Paris, as I have said, for the purpose of completing the text of an agreement ... " "Dr. Kissinger is returning to Paris on the 23d to complete the text of an agreement." "As I said, Dr. Kissinger is returning to Paris on the 23d to complete the text of an agreement ... " ]

From Washington Post 19 Jan 73, Carroll Kilpatrick, Key Biscayne:

Today's announcement [by Ziegler] said simply: "Dr. Kissinger will resume private meetings with special adviser Le Duc Tho and minister Xuan Thuy on Jan. 23 for the purpose of completing the text of an agreement."

([Bracketing by Wx Post] The version of the announcement put out by the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris differed in one respect from the text of the Florida White House statement.

(The North Vietnamese said the top negotiators would meet in Paris "to complete the agreement," whereas Ziegler referred to "an agreement." The North Vietnamese have demanded for almost three months that the United States sign the agreement drafted by Kissinger and Tho in October.

(Asked about the discrepancy, Ziegler said "the intention of both (announcements) is the same. There is no substantive difference.")