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**'Changed
Signals'**

**Kissinger Says
North Sought
Armed Victory**

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that North Vietnam kept escalating its demands for a political settlement in Saigon and finally "changed signals" to drive for a military victory.

This final frustration of American hopes in Vietnam, in the words of President Ford, "closes a chapter in the American experience."

The chapter goes back even farther than the 14 years of direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. It extends back to the 1954 Geneva conference on the French Indochina war, out of which the United States took on itself the championing of an anti-Communist cause that France concluded was hopeless.

At a somber televised press conference that was repeatedly delayed throughout the day until the last American evacuation helicopter was airborne over a chaotic Saigon, Kissinger ended the American Vietnamese involvement with finality.

Kissinger brushed aside the idea that the United States would even consider supporting "a government in exile" for South Vietnam. He left a dangling hope that last-minute American diplomatic efforts might contribute "to a political evolution that may spare South Viet-

nam some of the most drastic consequences of a political change." But even that "remains to be seen," Kissinger acknowledged.

The secretary said the United States still does not know just what caused what he described as "the impatience of the North Vietnamese to seize power" in Saigon "in the last day and a half."

Other U.S. experts, however, attributed that impatience to suspicion by the leaders in Hanoi that at the last minute they might be cheated out of total victory, and North Vietnamese determination to make it clear to the world that they had triumphed over the United States.

"It is clear," said Kissinger, "that the war did not achieve the objectives of those who started the American involvement, or the objectives of those who sought to end it." The latter cate-

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gory, of course, notably included Kissinger himself, who engineered the aborted 1973 Paris cease-fire accord on Vietnam, which he and President Nixon had hailed as "peace with honor."

"I think it will be a long time before Americans will be able to talk or write about the war with some dispassion," Kissinger said, but the theme that President Ford and Kissinger struck yesterday was for Americans to look forward, not backward.

Mr. Ford, in his statement read at the press conference by White House press secretary Ron Nessen, called on "all Americans to close ranks, to avoid recrimination about the past, to look ahead to the many goals we share . . ."

"It is a time to heal wounds," Kissinger similarly said and to make it clear to the world that the misfortunes of American

policy in Vietnam represent no weakening of American resolve globally.

At the same time, Kissinger reiterated his contention that "there is no question the outcome in Indochina will have consequences not only in Asia but in many other parts of the world." "To deny these consequences is to miss the possibility of dealing with them," he said. "But I am confident we can deal with them . . ."

Kissinger was vague about what future relations will be even between the United States and the present government of Gen. Duong Van (Big) Minh in Saigon.

The Minh government was attacked by the Vietnamese Communists in a turnabout that crushed U.S. hopes for a political settlement. Asked if American diplomatic relations with South Vietnam should be considered "in abeyance," Kissinger said, "I think that would be a fair statement."