
Hanoi Asks Talks With Kissinger

Washington

Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, has sent word to President Nixon through a delegation of American labor officials that he would like to resume his secret peace negotiations with presidential aide Henry Kissinger, congressional sources said yesterday.

The message, given to the union officials during their recent trip to Hanoi, apparently was the first public statement on peace negotiations by Tho since the secret talks were broken off last November.

The labor officials are David Livingston, president of District 65, Distributive Workers of America; Harold Gibbons, vice president of the Teamsters Union, and Clifton Caldwell, vice pres-

ident of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers. They met with Kissinger for more than an hour last Friday to report on their talks with Tho.

Yesterday the labor officials testified at a closed meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Experts on Capitol Hill expressed skepticism about the seriousness of Tho's offer to resume the secret talks with Kissinger. They asserted that if the Communist leader were really trying to start these negotiations, he would have used a more official and private channel of communication than the labor delegation.

The three labor leaders were in Hanoi at the invitation of North Vietnamese unions. They returned to this country on March 28.

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