

Kissinger Stays in U.S.

A Formal Peace -- Speculation Grows

Talk of a Cease-Fire In Saigon

Washington Post Service

Washington

President Nixon's order halting hostilities against North Vietnam, together with the Saigon visit of General Alexander Haig, resulted yesterday in widespread speculation that a peace agreement would be signed soon.

But in Key Biscayne, Fla., White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler caused a flurry of pessimism yesterday afternoon by announcing that national security adviser Henry Kissinger will remain in Washington all week instead of flying to Paris to initial an accord.

Ziegler added that President Nixon will have nothing to say to Congress or the American people before his inaugural address at noon Saturday.

Ziegler emphasized that there have been no developments to cause a slowdown or postponement of work on a cease-fire agreement.

SAIGON

Although there were reports from many capitals about the peace situation, attention centered on Saigon.

South Vietnamese officials said privately that President Nguyen Van Thieu is expected to approve the case-fire agreement plan brought by

Haig, but cautioned that Thieu is still reviewing the details.

Both CBS and The Associated Press in Saigon quoted "reliable" sources as saying that Mr. Nixon plans to declare a unilateral Vietnam cease-fire to start Friday, the eve of the inaugural.

Thieu has no choice but to

See Back Page

From Page 1

go along, the AP said its source had reported.

LEAK

The news service also quoted "one senior U.S. official" as saying it was possible that the cease-fire report was leaked by Saigon because of its objections to some conditions it feels Mr. Nixon is imposing on Thieu.

United Press, meanwhile, quoted its White House sources as flatly ruling out a settlement of the war before next week.

Many important questions remained unanswered.

One was the actual contents of the agreement worked out in Paris. A second was Thieu's ultimate reaction to them and whether he would make further counterproposals. A third was what Mr. Nixon plans to do.

RELUCTANCE

And on all these points, with memories of the breakdown of peace efforts last month still fresh, there was a general atmosphere of caution in all the capitals involved and a reluctance to make predictions.

In addition to the peace agreement, General Haig was reported to have taken with him to Indochina a separate 25-point document on the mechanical details that is still being negotiated.

The agreement, according

to several sources, provides for a recognition of the demilitarized zone as a temporary boundary between two separate Vietnamese nations, for the creation of "zones of emplacement" within South Vietnam where the opposing armies would regroup, and for elections to be held in six months.

'PROGRESS'

The acceptance of these principles by all four interested parties—the U.S., North and South Vietnam and the Viet Cong—represented the "progress" in the Paris talks to which Ziegler referred Monday in his announcement of a halt to the U.S. bombing in the north, according to one report.

The 25-point document was said to deal with such matters as the details of the release of prisoners of war and political prisoners, the boundaries of the "zones of emplacement," and the procedures and location of the conference of the four parties that is to supervise the implementation of some points of the agreement.

Haig, who arrived in Saigon yesterday morning and carried on a lengthy series of meetings with Thieu and American military and diplomatic officials, is to remain only briefly before going on to Laos, Cambodia and Thailand to meet with heads of state.

It was also reported that a South Vietnamese military delegation will soon leave for Paris for consultations about the peace negotiations.

ZIEGLER

In Key Biscayne, press secretary Ziegler appeared to want to discourage the widespread speculation that Kissinger would return to Paris today or tomorrow

and that a final agreement would be signed Friday.

On Monday Ziegler had said that Kissinger would return to Paris in the "relatively near future," sparking the speculation. He repeated the phrase yesterday but refused to define it.

At first, it appeared that the optimism over the "progress" reported in the negotiations was ebbing.

But the press secretary emphasized that "my posture is the same as it was when we announced the fact that Dr. Kissinger was returning for consultations . . . the same as the day I announced that General Haig was going to Saigon to continue the ongoing consultations with President Thieu . . . the same as it was yesterday (Monday) when I announced that . . . the President made the decision to suspend the bombing and any further mining or shelling of North Vietnam."