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Kissinger and Thieu Confer on Pullout

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 4 — Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, conferred with President Nguyen Van Thieu for two hours today on a broad range of topics including future American troop withdrawals, economic and military aid and the latest Communist peace proposals.

American and South Vietnamese officials provided no details of the conference, which was also attended by Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. But sources suggested that the meeting focused on Vietnamization and the ability of the South Vietnamese to carry the fight after the American withdrawal.

Mr. Kissinger reportedly discussed an even faster withdrawal rate next year and brought pledges of continued American economic and military aid, which both American and South Vietnamese officials regard as vital to Saigon's survival as the pullout continues. American troops here will drop to 184,000 by Dec. 1.

The visit of Mr. Kissinger has stirred the imaginations of his rumor-prone town and some South Vietnamese were suggesting that "something big" was afoot. But Americans are denying that dramatic shifts are impending.

'American Flag' Cake

Whatever his mission, Mr. Kissinger was clearly the center of attraction this afternoon at Ambassador Bunker's Fourth of July party. There was an army band, and an "American flag" ice cream cake. Among the 500 guests at the Ambassador's home were chic women, some in long dresses and others in the Vietnamese ao dai, admirals in white, and Gen. Brentnall W. Abrams, the military commander in civilian clothes.

Mr. Kissinger remarked to Premier Tran Thien Khiem that there have been many changes here in recent years. To reporters, he said that he had come to South Vietnam "to listen."

While avoiding conversation about the present, he talked

freely of the past. He said that six years ago his pocket had been picked in Saigon and that even now someone was probably walking around with "Henry Kissinger" credit cards.

He also recalled that at that time he had had a session with reporters to get their views on the political and military situation in Vietnam. He quickly added that he would not do so on this visit.

"Now I know all the answers," he said with a smile.

Mr. Kissinger, who was last in South Vietnam two years ago with President Nixon, told one guest that he had discussed the latest Communist proposals on ending the war. The guest quoted him having said that "we did not go into much detail about them."

The proposals, presented in

Paris Thursday, include an offer to release all prisoners simultaneously with the complete withdrawal of American troops by the end of this year. The plan, which the White House has said contained "positive as well as clearly unacceptable elements," also calls for the establishment of a coalition government.

The Saigon Government has said it sees nothing new in the proposals but would study them. Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, speaking for himself, said yesterday that he saw no obstacle to the withdrawal of American troops this year, but he did not comment on the other Communist demands.

Mr. Kissinger, who arrived here yesterday, will meet tomorrow, shortly before his departure, with Vice President Ky

and Gen. Duong Van Minh, both potential presidential candidates against Mr. Thieu in the elections here Oct. 3. Officials said the meetings were arranged to demonstrate United States impartiality in the elections.

In talks with American officials, Mr. Kissinger has ranged beyond the problems of Vietnam to those of Cambodia and Laos as well. Emory C. Swank, the United States envoy in Pnompenh, and G. McMurtrie Godley, the Ambassador in Vientiane, flew in for the weekend meetings.

Mr. Kissinger will stop in Thailand, India and Pakistan before going to Paris for talks with Ambassador David K. E. Bruce, the chief American negotiator. He will return to Washington Saturday. 10 JUL