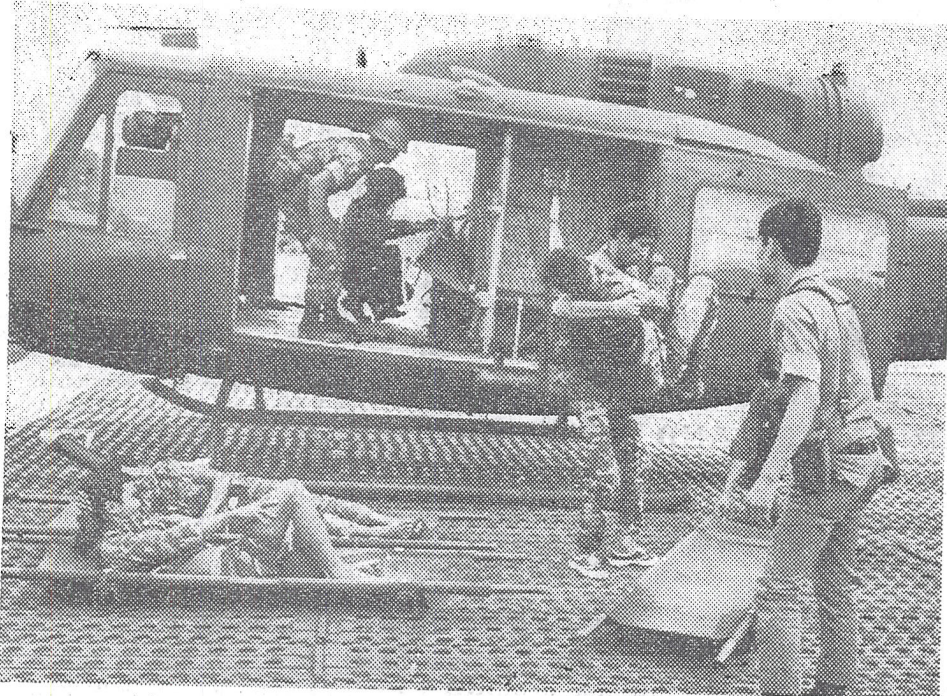


U.S. AND SAIGON AGREE ON NEW TALK IF HANOI DISCUSSES INVASION HALT; ENEMY TRAPS A FORCE NEAR KONTUM



EVACUATING WOUNDED: South Vietnamese soldier being carried from helicopter at Pleiku, in Central Highlands, where a string of fire bases has been abandoned to enemy.

Associated Press

NEW SECRET TRIP

Kissinger Flew to Soviet—Silent on Details

NYTimes

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By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 25—

The White House announced tonight that the United States and South Vietnam were prepared to resume the Paris peace talks at the next regular session, on Thursday.

The announcement, issued simultaneously in Saigon, stipulated, however, "that the first item of business in these talks must be the discussion of measures" aimed at putting an end "to the flagrant North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam."

Second Major Disclosure

The announcement was the Administration's second dramatic disclosure of the day, following the revelation that President Nixon had sent his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, on a secret mission to Moscow last week.

In addition, the White House announced that Mr. Nixon would make his promised statement on United States troops in Vietnam on nationwide television at 10 P.M. tomorrow.

Despite the sudden sequence of events, White House spokesmen resisted speculation on the connection between the Kissinger visit, the announcement that the United States was prepared to resume talks and Mr. Nixon's speech tomorrow night.

They said, for example, that it would be unwise to regard the announcement on the peace talks as setting the stage for any new diplomatic overtures from Mr. Nixon.

Vietnam Was Discussed

However, the Soviet Union is known to have urged the United States to return to the peace table, and White House officials would not rule out the possibility that the Russians pressed this request on Mr. Kissinger while he was in Moscow.

Mr. Kissinger himself indicated today that Vietnam had been discussed with the Soviet leaders, but he would provide no further details.

It was not immediately clear here whether negotiations would resume in earnest in Paris on Thursday. The North Vietnamese have said that they wish to talk and have been routinely appearing at the negotiating table since the talks were suspended last month.

But it was not clear here how they would respond to the Administration's insistence that the first item of business be the invasion of South Vietnam.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, who read the announcement on the peace talks to newsmen, refused to accept a reporter's suggestion that the United States had imposed a "precondition" for the resumption of talks.

'Another Chance' Offered

"We are willing to give the talks another chance," he said, adding later, "We are willing to sit down and talk to the other side."

He went on to say that "we are willing to test their intentions" and to discover whether the other side was interested in more than a "sterile propaganda debate."

Mr. Ziegler conceded that the United States originally had broken off the talks because the President felt that Hanoi was not interested in working

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U.S. and Saigon Agree to Resume Talks

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

"seriously" toward a settlement. Both he said "they have pressed hard" to resume discussions and "we are willing to listen."

Mr. Kissinger's journey, the latest in a series of private and unannounced diplomatic missions he has undertaken at the President's request, was said to have begun last Thursday and ended at noon yesterday, Moscow time, when he flew home and briefed Mr. Nixon at the Presidential retreat in Camp David, nearby in Maryland.

The White House has not said whether the President intends to continue his withdrawal program beyond May 1—when the troop total will be 69,000 men—and discouraged all speculation in advance of the speech.

Nor would the White House say whether Mr. Nixon planned to shed any further light on the Kissinger mission, noting only that Mr. Nixon had decided "when and how and what to say" in his television address after conferring with Mr. Kissinger last evening.

Appearing before newsmen this morning, Mr. Kissinger described his discussions with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist party chief, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko as useful, frank and satisfactory.

Few Other Details

He disclosed few other details, explaining the United States and Soviet Union had agreed not to disclose the substance of the talks, and other spokesmen here were no more informative.

There was immediate and widespread speculation, however, that Mr. Kissinger had flown to Moscow to give the Soviet leadership a first-hand account of the President's rationale for the rapid intensification of the air war in Indochina, particularly the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong in North Vietnam.

Mr. Kissinger himself virtually conceded that the war in Vietnam was at, or near, the top of the agenda, saying at one point, "I think you can draw your conclusions from an announcement which says that important international problems were discussed."

The announcement itself, released simultaneously in Moscow and Washington, read as follows:

"Between April 20 and April 24, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, assistant to the President for national security affairs, was in Moscow to confer with the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Brezhnev, and Foreign Minister Gromyko. The discussions dealt with important international problems, as well as bilateral matters, preparatory to the talks between President Nixon and Soviet leaders in May."

However, Mr. Kissinger

seemed to resist speculation that another principal motive behind the trip had been to reassure the Russians of Mr. Nixon's wish to hold the meeting in Moscow as planned and to make certain that no last-minute cancellation would occur as a result of the heavy fighting in Vietnam.

Asked whether there had been any possibility before his secret trip that the meetings would be canceled, Mr. Kissinger replied, "none." He said later that arrangements for the Nixon trip were proceeding on schedule.

There was also considerable speculation here that Mr. Kissinger had tried not only to explain the reasoning behind the raids on Hanoi and Haiphong but also to give the Soviet leadership some sense of the President's commitment to the South Vietnamese and thus some warning of other measures that Mr. Nixon might feel the need to take if the military situation worsens.

Asked whether he had informed the Russians "of any decision the President has made for the future," Mr. Kissinger said: "Obviously, one purpose of my going was to put before the Soviet leaders the considerations of the President on major international problems, as well as his thinking on the upcoming talks in Moscow."

He would not elaborate.

Relations Severely Strained

Despite Mr. Kissinger's assertion that the meeting was not in jeopardy before he left for Moscow, the President's decision to send him, by Mr. Kissinger's own testimony today, came at a time when relations between the two countries were under the most severe strain.

Mr. Kissinger said that the decision to send him to Moscow was made early last week. The United States had bombed Haiphong the previous weekend, damaging four Soviet merchant ships and eliciting from Moscow a sharp formal protest, on Monday, April 17.

The United States, in a reply the same day, termed the damage "inadvertent and regrettable" but again accused the Russians of some responsibility for the North Vietnamese invasion of the South because the Russians had supplied "offensive equipment" to Hanoi.

Mr. Kissinger acknowledged that relations had reached "a very delicate phase" and that while Mr. Nixon and Mr. Brezhnev had consulted frequently over the last three years on diplomatic questions, "It was felt in the last few weeks that a more direct exchange might be desirable."

Mr. Kissinger was accompanied on his flight by the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Anatoly F. Dobrynin, who was said to have remained behind in Moscow. The two men flew in an American military aircraft. The White House would not say whether Mr. Kis-

singer had made any stops on his trips to and from Moscow.

The disclosure of Mr. Kissinger's trip surprised the capital as much as earlier disclosures that he had visited Peking and had conducted secret negotiations with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris.

Beginning last Thursday, when Mr. Nixon left for Camp David, the White House press office conveyed the clear impression that Mr. Kissinger had also gone there and had remained for consultations. Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, conceded today that these reports were "misleading."

Mr. Ziegler acknowledged that when he was telling reporters on Friday that Mr. Kissinger was at Camp David, he was aware that Mr. Kissinger was in Moscow. He said that disclosure of Mr. Kissinger's mission would have caused "a great deal of speculation" and endangered the trip.

Mr. Ziegler explained that he had deliberately not told Gerald L. Warren, his deputy, about the Kissinger mission because "I didn't want to put him in an awkward situation." Mr. Warren handles about half the White House briefings and had also conveyed the impression that Mr. Kissinger was at Camp David.

A Surprise in Moscow

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, April 25—The announcement that Henry A. Kissinger had paid a secret four-day visit to Moscow came as a surprise here. Although he had made a similar secret journey to Peking to prepare for Mr. Nixon's visit to China, it had been assumed that preliminary Soviet-American arrangements could be handled through diplomatic channels.