

France, Britain Rebuff Nixon on Summit Meet

Paris

President Nixon's hopes for a European summit conference this fall got a polite brushoff yesterday from President Georges Pompidou and British Prime Minister Edward Heath at the conclusion of a two-day Anglo-French meeting here.

Without rejecting a summit in so many words, the two heads of government agreed that there were many substantive matters to be discussed with the United States before the possibility of a summit could be taken up.

The two men talked about the "Year of Europe" speech by Henry A. Kissinger last month, and had no trouble concluding that there was a lot to be cleared up about just what it is that the U.S. wants or has in mind.

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Britain and France are also firmly agreed that the three principal areas of problems with the U.S. — trade questions, monetary reform and defense and security matters — must each be dealt with in its own framework instead of being linked together in the package as Washington has been suggesting it would like to do.

Paris Talks-- U.S. Envoy Flies to Saigon

Paris

Ambassador William Sullivan flew to Saigon last night as American-North Vietnamese talks have appeared to be nearing a conclusion, the U.S. Embassy said.

Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and Hanoi politburo member Le Duc Tho will remain in Paris for the time being. They have scheduled a sixth meeting for today.

Presumably, Sullivan will seek to get President Nguyen Van Thieu's approval of points on which Kissinger and Le Duc Tho think they may be able to agree.

However, a qualified source indicated that the week-long talks on how to make the cease-fire effective have not been able to get down to precise and factual details.

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"We have headaches enough to deal with all this without saying when we are going to have a summit."

the British official spokesman, Donald Maitland, commented after the meeting. "A summit is only fruitful when the issues have been identified and the problems sorted out."

Asked if the Watergate situation had been discussed by the two heads of government in connection with a possible summit, the British spokesman said it had not come up. But when asked if he thought the two men had managed to dismiss it from their minds, he quickly replied: "No."

VIEW

President Pompidou will meet President Nixon in Iceland at the end of next week, and with the full backing of the British he is thus in a key position to represent a "European" point of view on the Kissinger speech and the administration's approach to its "Year of Europe" objectives.

Although the British have made all the requisite polite noises about the Kissinger speech — deserving of thoughtful attention; need to formulate a positive response, etc. — it was clear after this Paris meeting that Heath has put his European policy ahead of the old and fading "special relationship" once again.

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