

# BID FOR NEW TALKS BY HANOI RELAYED

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Secret Kissinger Parleys  
Reported Sought — U.S.  
Aides Are Skeptical

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WASHINGTON, April 6 — Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, has sent word to President Nixon through a delegation of American labor leaders that he would like to resume his secret peace negotiations with Henry A. Kissinger, Congressional sources said today.

The message, given to the American union officials during their recent trip to Hanoi, was apparently the first public statement on peace negotiations by Mr. Tho since last November, when the secret talks broke off between him and Mr. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security.

The labor leaders are David Livingston, president of District 65, Distributive Workers of America; Harold Gibbons, vice president of the Teamsters Union, and Clifton Caldwell, vice president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers. They met with Mr. Kissinger for more than an hour last Friday to report on their talks with Mr. Tho.

Today the labor leaders testified in a closed meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Questioned today about reports circulating among other Washington sources, Congressional sources confirmed the new of-

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fer of peace talks. The reports did not originate with the Foreign Relations Committee, but with non-Congressional sources.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said after today's testimony that the committee had heard reports before that the North Vietnamese were disturbed by the breaking off of the secret talks in Paris. He said that the testimony by the labor leaders confirmed these reports.

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

The labor leaders did not mention the offer by Mr. Tho to resume peace negotiations when they were being questioned by the press outside of the committee room today. The union officials did say, however, that

Mr. Tho had urged them specifically to relay the substance of his comments to President Nixon and Mr. Kissinger.

The union officials reported that in the course of a two-and-a-half-hour interview, Mr. Tho declared that his Government had no desire to "humiliate" the United States and was willing to negotiate a "peace with honor for America."

The basic proposal for peace put forward by Mr. Tho in his talks with the Americans followed essentially the two central demands Hanoi has made for some time: the United States must set a firm date for the withdrawal of all of its forces from South Vietnam and that the Thieu Government must be replaced by a "neutral coalition" in Saigon.