
Allies Agree to Resume the Talks

A Secret Mission to Moscow

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Washington

The White House announced last night that the United States and the Saigon government are prepared to resume the Paris peace talks at the next regular session tomorrow.

The announcement 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."

The announcement was the administration's second dramatic disclosure of the day and followed by seven hours the revelation that President Nixon sent his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, on a secret mission to Moscow last week.

In addition, the White House further announced that Mr. Nixon would make his promised statement on troop levels in Vietnam in a nationwide television address tonight.

CONNECTIONS

Despite the sudden sequence of events, White House spokesmen resisted speculation of direct connections between the Kissinger visit, the announcement that the United States is prepared to resume talks and Mr. Nixon's speech.

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.

However, the Soviet Union
See Back Page

From Page 1

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 they pressed this view on Kissinger while he was in Moscow. Kissinger himself indicated yesterday that Vietnam was discussed with the Soviet leaders, but would provide no further details.

It was not immediately clear here whether negotiations would resume in earnest in Paris tomorrow. The North Vietnamese have said that they are anxious to talk and have been routinely putting in an appearance at the negotiating table ever since the talks were suspended last month.

ZIEGLER

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

"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 is interested in more than a "sterile propaganda debate."

Ziegler conceded that the United States originally broke off the talks because the President felt that Hanoi was not interested in working "seriously" toward a settlement. But he said "they have pressed hard" to resume discussions and "we are willing to listen."

TRIP

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 Monday, Moscow time, when he flew home and briefed Mr. Nixon at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Md.

Appearing before newsmen, Kissinger described his discussions with Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko as "useful," "frang," and "satisfactory."

He revealed few other details, explaining that both sides had agreed not to reveal the subjects of the substance of the talks. Other spokesmen here were similarly closed-mouth about Kissinger's trip.

There was immediate and widespread speculation, however, that Kissinger had flown to Moscow to give the Soviet leadership a firsthand account of the Presi-



UPI Telephoto

HENRY KISSINGER
'Satisfactory' talks

dent's rationale for the rapid escalation of the air war in Indochina, particularly the bombing of Hanoi and Hai-phong.

Agenda

Kissinger himself virtually conceded that the Vietnam struggle 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."

However, Kissinger seemed to resist speculation by some newsmen that another major motive behind the trip had been to reassure the Soviets of Mr. Nixon's anxiety to consummate the Moscow summit meeting planned for late May, and to make certain that no last-minute cancellation would occur as a consequence of the heavy fighting in Vietnam.

Asked at one point whether there had been any possibility before his secret trip to Moscow that the summit would be canceled, Kissinger replied, "None." He said later that arrangements for the trip are proceeding on schedule.