

# Report of Deal For Secret Talks

Associated Press

Paris

The United States will go back to the Vietnam peace table today presumably because of a Communist pledge of parallel secret talks.

Informants indicated yesterday that a deal for secret talks apparently enabled the U.S. to swallow its previous statements it would not return to the semi-public sessions while the enemy offensive in South Vietnam was in progress.

Washington has long argued that secret talks offer the best possibility for a solution of the Vietnamese conflict. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong have insisted that the regular semi-

public sessions of the talks continue.

A resumption of the semi-public plenary sessions of the conference, demanded last week by the Communist side, was accepted by the U.S. and South Vietnam Tuesday, without any publicly stated conditions. It will be the 148th meeting in a series that began in January, 1969.

It will be the first since March 23, when President Nixon suspended the conference indefinitely accusing the Communists of engaging in propaganda instead of negotiations.

A diplomatic informant said "things of interest not

*See Back Page*

## SECRET TALKS

From Page 1

occurring on the surface" would also be happening — an obvious reference to secret talks.

Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, told newsmen that after resumption of the talks with the United States, "it is very possible that Le Duc Tho will be in Paris in the near future."

Tho is the Politburo member who would figure in any new secret talks.

### POSSIBILITY

Asked about the possibility of secret talks, Thuy said "we can only discuss this after the United States has returned to the talks." He added that North Vietnam would make no difficulties over the form of the negotiations.

In news conferences last week Thuy held open the possibility of secret talks if the U.S. returned to the regular weekly sessions.

Tho had met with Henry Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, 12 times in secret talks disclosed last January by the President.

In announcing agreement to return to the conference, White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said: "It is the United States' view that the first item of business in these talks must be the dis-

cussion of measures which will put an end to the flagrant North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam."

### REJECTION

It was clear that if this happens, the talks will quickly bog down in another fruitless exchange of polemics. In commenting on the U.S. decision to return to the talks, the North Vietnamese delegation said: "We reject all fallacious allegations on the part of the United States on the so-called invasion of South Vietnam by North Vietnam."

Ziegler said "we are not interested in sterile propaganda debate." He added that the United States "will take a dim view of keeping the Paris forum open if Hanoi seeks to use it for such purposes."

It appeared likely to observers that the U.S. would put up with a certain amount of invective from the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegations at the semi-public conference sessions if at secret talks there is some firm sign of progress toward resolving the conflict.

The North Vietnamese delegation claimed that the U.S. was forced to resume the talks "in the face of the demand of the Vietnamese people, American people and world public opinion."