

[Companion story by William Bradford Huie, "Soviet Aid Said to Rise," pasted separately; this file.]

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**Deal on Secret Sessions  
 Led to New Peace Talks**

**Moscow Role Reported**

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WASHINGTON, April 28—

A well-placed Administration source said today that before the United States decided to return to the Vietnam peace conference, secret arrangements had been worked out with Hanoi and Moscow for the resumption of private peace talks as well.

Under the reported arrangement, the United States delegation ended its month-long boycott of the formal peace conference in Paris yesterday, while in Hanoi, Le Duc Tho, the Politburo member responsible for the secret negotiations, left for Paris by way of Peking and Moscow to meet with American officials.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union said today that it saw a victory for the Vietnamese Communists in President Nixon's decision to resume the talks. [Page 11.]

According to the Washington source, North Vietnam and the United States have exchanged a series of mes-

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sages in the last month since the North Vietnamese offensive began in South Vietnam.

The arrangements for the resumption of talks reportedly began to be made after the American bombing of the Hanoi and Haiphong area two weeks ago. Final deals were said to have been worked out while Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, was in Moscow last weekend for four days of talks with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist party leader.

Mr. Brezhnev reportedly urged Mr. Nixon to resume talks with the North Vietnamese, suggesting that the secret negotiations with Le Duc Tho might prove productive. Mr. Kissinger, who had met privately a dozen times with Le Duc Tho and other North Vietnamese diplomats since 1969, would be the person expected to meet again with Mr. Tho.

**Session Marked by Polemics**

Mr. Nixon, after hearing Mr. Kissinger's report on Monday, put into operation the machinery that led to the announcement on Tuesday night that the United States would return to the regular Paris session on Thursday. Yesterday's meeting was marked by polemics from each side, accusing the other of bad faith and aggression.

But in Hanoi, the North Vietnamese press agency announced that "after the United States agreed to resume the plenary sessions" of the Paris talks, Le Duc Tho "on the same day left Hanoi for Paris"—a signal to the Americans that North Vietnam was living up to its part of the arrangement for resuming secret talks.

Administration officials are said to have no evidence, however, that the talks—either in public or private—will necessarily prove more productive than previous rounds of talks.

The Administration—particularly Mr. Kissinger—seems to believe that the current North Vietnamese offensive is a prelude to serious bargaining by the enemy. On Wednesday night, before Mr. Nixon's Vietnam speech, Mr. Kissinger told newsmen that news reports of a Le Duc Tho's return to Paris were a good sign.

In his speech that night, Mr. Nixon said that the United States was resuming the Paris negotiations "with the firm expectation that productive talks leading to rapid progress will follow through all available channels."

The mention of "all available channels" was an allusion to the secret talks, which have generally been held in an atmosphere freer of rhetoric than that of the formal sessions.

Newsmen have pressed Administration spokesmen to state what Mr. Nixon's grounds were for his "firm expectation" of progress. But so far the answers have been vague, possibly because of the decision here not to make known the details of Mr. Kissinger's Moscow trip or the exchange of messages with Hanoi in recent weeks.

**Hanoi-Haiphong Raids Barred**

Administration officials have noted that the North Vietnamese, as part of their major offensive, have put equal stress in public statements on the need for victories in the military, political and diplomatic spheres. This explains, the officials said, the willingness of Hanoi to resume talks, even though part of its country is being bombed by American warplanes.

But the Administration, aware of the sensitivity of the North Vietnamese and the Russians to bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, barred further raids against those cities after the initial attacks on April 15 and 16. Officially, the Administration denies that it has ruled out any targets in the current fighting, but officials, including Mr. Kissinger, have hinted that Hanoi and Haiphong would remain off-limits until North Vietnam's diplomatic posture is thoroughly explored.