

# SAIGON'S ATTEMPT TO OPEN HIGHWAYS TO 2 CITIES FAILS

MAY 6 1972

**South Vietnamese Repulsed  
at Anloc and Kontum—  
Losses Are Heavy**

## A FIRE BASE IS OVERRUN

**White House Acknowledges  
Kissinger Conferred With  
Le Duc Tho in Paris**

By FOX BUTTERFIELD  
Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, May 6—South Vietnamese attempts to open the highways to the besieged cities of Anloc north of Saigon and Kontum in the Central Highlands were beaten back by the Communists yesterday, with serious losses to the Government forces, reports from the field said.

Ten miles south of Anloc, the Route 13, North Vietnamese troops overran a Government outpost, forcing the Government troops and Infantry Division to retreat. United States military aircraft and bombers relieved the situation, allowing some refugees to escape to Pleiku.

The paratroops were reported engaged in heavy fighting all day as they sought unsuccessfully to keep the road open.

[In Washington, the White House acknowledged that Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security affairs, had met in Paris with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam last Tuesday, just two days before the peace talks were suspended by the United States and South Vietnam.]

Little fighting was reported from the former imperial city of Hue on the coast where forces on both sides were reorganizing. It was expected Communist forces would take the city. The United States, however, has not commented.

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# White House Confirms Talks By Kissinger in Paris Tuesday

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP)—The White House acknowledged tonight that Henry A. Kissinger met secretly in Paris Tuesday with Le Duc Tho, a member of North Vietnam's Politburo, two days before the United States and South Vietnam suspended peace talks there.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said in response to a question, that Mr. Kissinger had made the trip to the French capital. Reports from Paris had said that North Vietnamese sources had disclosed the session.

Rumors circulated here and in Paris this week that such a meeting had been held but, until tonight, the White House declined to confirm or deny them.

Mr. Ziegler said the United States had suggested at the outset that Mr. Kissinger's trip be acknowledged publicly. But, he reported, the Nixon Administration did not do so because, as Mr. Ziegler put it, the North Vietnamese "urgently requested" that the fact of the meeting and the content of the discussion remain completely private.

The White House spokesman, referring to the North Vietnamese, said: "I would just say this is another example of their bad faith." \*

## Hanoi Ready to Confer

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 5 — A North Vietnamese official told visitors from California today that his side was ready to meet

with Henry A. Kissinger again, "privately or publicly."

But Nguyen Van Vy, deputy chief of Hanoi's delegation to the peace talks here, said it would take a change in United States policy to produce any progress.

Mr. Vy's remarks were relayed to a news conference here by the Right Rev. Edward Crowther, a Protestant Episcopal Bishop from San Francisco.

The bishop said Mr. Vy was asked whether private talks would continue, and drew this reply:

"For our part, we are ready to take part in any meeting. We want to point out that we are ready to meet either privately or publicly. However, the most important thing is the change in policy, not the meeting."

Orville Schell, editor of Pacific News Service, and Max Palevsky of Los Angeles, a director of Xerox Corporation and a backer of Senator George McGovern for the Democratic Presidential nomination, accompanied Bishop Crowther.

All said the North Vietnamese expected a grave intensification of the war by the Nixon Administration but were confident that it would fail.

Mr. Palevsky said he had found the North Vietnamese insistent on a firm political settlement with the United States, so there would be "no pretext to reopen hostilities." They would not, he said, consider a truce while President Nguyen Van Thieu was in power in South Vietnam.

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\* SEE S.F. EXAMINER 6 MAY 72