

Kissinger Meets Privately With Hanoi Aides Again

NYTimes By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr. AUG 2 1972

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1—The White House disclosed this morning that Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser conferred privately today for the second time in less than two weeks with top North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris.

[In Saigon, a United States Navy spokesman reported that American planes had bombed a shipyard at Hai-phong that had built and repaired shallow supply boats. Page 8.]

According to Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, Mr. Kissinger conferred during the day with Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, and Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks.

Mr. Kissinger returned to

night to brief the President. No further details on the length or substance of the conversation were provided here and both the United States and North Vietnamese delegations in Paris kept complete silence.

The meeting was Mr. Kissinger's 15th private talk with Hanoi's chief negotiators in the last two years. The most recent was on July 19, after Mr. Kissinger had flown to Paris from the summer White House in San Clemente.

In the absence of any further report from Mr. Kissinger or the White House, officials here preferred to reserve judgment on whether today's meeting had narrowed differences between the two sides. But they were not optimistic.

Publicly, they noted, both

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sides have recently seemed to harden their positions. There has been no indication that the North Vietnamese are willing to move toward Mr. Nixon's basic proposal for an internationally supervised cease-fire, an exchange of prisoners, and withdrawal of American troops four months after a settlement is reached.

On the contrary—at least in public—Hanoi has clung to its basic seven-point proposal, the key elements of which would involve an American withdrawal, the removal of support for President Nguyen Van Thieu, and the establishment of a three-part coalition government before a cease-fire or an exchange of prisoners.

Principal 'Hangup'

Mr. Nixon, at a news conference last Thursday, described Hanoi's insistence on a prior political settlement as the principal "hangup" in the negotiations, and said that he could not accede to any plan that would "impose a Communist government on South Vietnam."

This obstacle would also seem to threaten not only the achievement of a larger settlement but Mr. Nixon's hope of providing the voters with tangible evidence of diplomatic progress before the November election.

Some White House aides have been saying privately that, at a minimum, Mr. Nixon ought to obtain a cease-fire by November. But such an interim agreement would require a change in Hanoi's demands for a political settlement before a cease-fire and—despite a few hopeful hints—most officials here do not think the Communists are now prepared to make such a change.

Nixon Is Hopeful

At the same time, however, Mr. Nixon insisted that the chances for a peaceful settlement were better than ever and implored his critics in the Democratic party and on Capitol Hill to give him three months, unobstructed by competing proposals, to achieve a bargain.

He was particularly critical of various end-the-war resolutions that would, in effect, extract a prisoner exchange but not a cease-fire in return for withdrawal of American troops by a certain date.

Mr. Nixon said he thought the chances were better now because the enemy was suffering under heavy and continuous American bombing and was hurt on the battlefield. Other analysts here have derived hope from reports that North Vietnam's rice supply has dwindled badly and from hints in Paris that Hanoi might be willing to drop its insistence on the removal of Mr. Thieu as part of an initial settlement.

These hints gave rise to expectations here that the North Vietnamese might be prepared—as is Mr. Nixon—to work

out a political solution after, and not before, an end to the fighting.

But these are frail reeds on which to base hopes for a major breakthrough, most analysts here acknowledge. Moreover, it is conceded among diplomats that Hanoi will be in no hurry to change its terms appreciably until it has a clearer picture of the outcome of the American election in November.

Hanoi has made no secret of its preference for the Democratic candidate, Senator George McGovern of South Dakota. Mr. McGovern has offered to end the bombing on Inauguration Day, withdraw all troops within three months and end support of the Saigon regime. He has said that the North Vietnamese would inevitably release American prisoners of war after these two steps were carried out, even though his plan does not meet Hanoi's demand for the creation of a coalition government acceptable to the Communists

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