

KISSINGER MEETS THIEU FOR 2 HOURS; TO SEE HIM AGAIN

**U.S. Sources Say the Secret
Paris Parley Figured in
Their Discussion**

AUG 18 1972

TALK TODAY A SURPRISE

**It Fans Speculation That
Washington Has Offered
Major New Proposal**

NYTimes

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Aug. 17—Henry A. Kissinger and President Nguyen Van Thieu conferred for more than two hours here today. United States sources confirmed that the recent secret talks in Paris between Mr. Kissinger and the North Vietnamese figured in today's discussion.

It had been expected that Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, and President Thieu would confer only once, but they scheduled a second meeting for tomorrow, fanning speculation that the subject of their discussion was highly significant and possibly involved a major proposal put forth by the Americans.

[United States planes reportedly made 370 strikes against North Vietnam Wednesday in what appeared to have been the heaviest day of raids this year.]

United States sources gave no hint about the tenor of the discussion between Mr. Kissinger and President Thieu, or about whether there had been disagreement.

A United States Embassy spokesman declined under questioning to "characterize the atmosphere" of the meeting and said that he "could not say whether it was cordial." President Thieu's office refused all comment.

Four Others at Meeting

Mr. Kissinger and President Thieu were smiling as they posed for photographers at the

presidential palace here before the beginning of the meeting.

The American ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, and Winston Lord, a Kissinger aide, also were present at the meeting. With President Thieu were his security adviser, Nguyen Phu Duc, and his press secretary, Hoang Duc Nha.

Mr. Kissinger and American officials here planned a working dinner tonight at Ambassador Bunker's Saigon villa to lay the groundwork for the second meeting.

Before the meeting today with the South Vietnamese Kissinger met for two hours and 45 minutes with Ambassador Bunker, Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the commander of United States forces in Vietnam, and Gen. John W. Vogt Jr. commander of the Seventh Air Force, which carries out bombing raids over North Vietnam.

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Mr. Kissinger also conferred with Mr. Bunker last night after his arrival from Europe.

"I really won't talk—there is no sense asking me questions," Mr. Kissinger told newsmen when they asked if he was delivering any new peace proposals to Mr. Thieu. He met the newsmen briefly after his conference with the United States commander and Mr. Bunker.

Mr. Kissinger said that his conference with the two commanders and Mr. Bunker consisted of a review of "the general political and military situation." This wording echoed that of the White House's earlier statement announcing he was going to Saigon for a "general review of all aspects of the Vietnam problem, including the negotiations in Paris."

Mr. Kissinger flew to Saigon from Zurich after a secret meeting in Paris on Monday with Le Duc Tho of the North Vietnamese Politburo. Mr. Tho, meantime, left Paris for Hanoi.

This combination of events touched off speculation that Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Tho had reached an agreement and that Mr. Kissinger had come to Saigon to tell President Thieu he would have to resign and make way for a coalition government, or accept some major compromise.

There was some speculation to the effect that Mr. Kissinger

was sent to tell President Thieu that his secret talks with Mr. Tho were deadlocked and to reassure him that the Nixon Administration would continue its bombing and other support of the Saigon Government.

North Charges Duplicity

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Aug. 18 — Hanoi's spokesman at the Paris peace talks said today that President Nixon was trying to create an impression of optimism while at the same time intensifying the war in Vietnam.

The spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, charged at a press briefing that yesterday 400 American air sorties were reported over North Vietnam, and that attacks on Hanoi and Haiphong of unprecedented intensity "coincided" with Mr. Kissinger's arrival in Saigon.

After today's session of the talks, the spokesman for the United States delegation, David Lambertson, denied a charge, made by the North Vietnamese delegate, Xuan Thuy, that the United States delegate, William J. Porter, had hinted at suspending the conference when he did not propose a date for the next session.

As he left today's session, Mr. Porter characterized the incident as "verbal Ping-Pong about meeting next week."

The United States spokesman added that "we consider it in our interest and in the interest of peace to be back."

The incident was described by Mr. Porter as "the only interesting thing" in the session.

In her prepared statement at today's session, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong representative at the talks, said that there had been in January, 1969, "a most favorable occasion to put an end to the war if President Nixon had wished it."

She said that President Nixon, instead of seeking a "correct negotiated solution," turned to a solution that would "perpetuate the yoke of American neo-colonialism over South Vietnam."

Thus, she charged, President Nixon put into effect the "Vietnamization plan," and tried to "hamper and sabotage" the conference.

Her statement followed recent assertions by Democratic party leaders that President Nixon had missed a chance to make peace shortly after he took office.

Tho Stops Off in Moscow

MOSCOW, Aug. 17 (Reuters) —Le Duc Tho, chief adviser to Hanoi's delegation at the Paris peace talks, made a brief stop in Moscow today on his way home. According to Tass, the official press agency, he received assurances of continued Soviet aid to North Vietnam. Mr. Tho later left by air for Hanoi.

From SFChronicle, 18 Aug, NYTimes Service:

Le said that 400 American air sorties were reported over North Vietnam on Wednesday, and that attacks on Hanoi and Haiphong of unprecedented intensity "coincided with Dr. (Henry A.) Kissinger's arrival" in Saigon. The "complete destruction" of the town of Thanh Hoa, with hundreds of dead, coincided with Kissinger's arrival in Paris, he added.