Kissinger, Thieu Extend the Talks

Associated Press

Saigon

Henry A. Kissinger and President Nguyen Van Thieu scheduled a second day of conferences today, underscoring the importance of their talks and generating speculation they are exploring new proposals to end the war.

The presidential adviser and Thieu held a two-hour and 15-minute conference yesterday at Independence Palace. United States sources confirmed that the discussions included results of three secret meetings Kissinger has held in Paris in the past six weeks with Le Duc Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese politburo.

It had been assumed that Kissinger and Thieu would confer for only one day, as they did during the presidential adviser's visit here in July 1971.

RETURN

Kissinger will leave this afternoon for Tokyo to confer with Japanese officials. He is scheduled to return to Washington tomorrow.

Neither U.S. Embassy nor palace officials would comment on the substance of the talks. Kissinger told newsmen earlier that he was here for a general review of the political and military situation. He declined to answer questions about whether he had brought any new proposals with him.

"I really won't talk," he said. "There is no sense in asking me questions."

With Kissinger at yesterday's session were an aide, Winston Lord, and U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. With Thieu were Kissinger's Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Phu Duc, and Hoang Duc Nha, another adviser and confidant.

SMILES

A U.S. Embassy spokesmen noted that Kissinger and Thieu were smiling as they posed for photographers at the palace before the start of the meeting. But under questioning by newsmen, he said he could not characterize the atmosphere of the meeting.

Asked if he could disclose

See Back Page

From Page 1

any substance of the talks, the spokesman replied: "There were three Americans in there and their lips are sealed."

Without any information available, there was much speculation on the purpose of Kissinger's visit. There was general agreement it is significant and could lead to major developments.

One line of speculation is that Kissinger is discussing with Thieu a revised proposal for a political settlement, including a new election format giving the Communist side better odds than it now has to oust Thieu.

There is also talk of a cease - fire, which would give the Communists control of territory gained in their offensive.

Under an earlier proposal made by President Nixon, Thieu agreed to resign one month before a new election in South Vietnam, in which he would be eligible as a candidate.

Some attention was attracted by a Hanoi radio broadcast Wednesday quoting a North Vietnamese newspaper as saying Mr. Nixon had proposed a "socalled new peace plan," and calling it "nothing but a new hoax."

The broadcast gave no de-

tails of the purported peace plan but quoted the August 16 edition of the army newspaper, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, as indicating it was aimed at ending the war by the end of September.

The newspaper said Western sources had reported August 14 that the new plan had been put on the table at Paris by the United States. That was the day Kissinger arrived for talks with Tho.

The newspaper was thought to be referring to an article in the American weekly news magazine, Time. The article said the United States was working on a proposal under which two transitional "Saigon governments," one of them controlled by the Communists, would negotiate with each other to settle the war in the South.

Each would control certain territory in South Vietnam as a base and they would negotiate as equals, thereby avoiding the necessity for a coalition government to be established in Saigon, according to the magazine.

Such a plan would almost certainly require Thieu's resignation as he has opposed not only a coalition including the Communists but any concession of territory to the Communists for any purpose.