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Paris Talks-- White House Denies Deal

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Washington

Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger returned to Washington from Paris last night amid speculation—strongly denied by the White House—that there had been a breakthrough in peace negotiations with the North Vietnamese.

Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary, traveling with President Nixon in San Francisco, said a radio broadcast reporting that an accord had been reached was unfounded.

Earlier in the day, when the rumors first began circulating, Ziegler confined himself to the remark that "I cannot comment at all on the substance of the discussions" in Paris.

Kissinger, who is Nixon's special assistant for national security affairs, flew from Paris aboard a special Air Force jet transport immediately after holding his second private meeting in two days with the North Vietnamese representatives.

KISSINGER

A reporter at Andrews Air Force base, shouting, asked him to comment on the reports of a breakthrough. Kissinger shouted back: "I can't say anything."

Sources said Kissinger is expected to stay in Washington for Mr. Nixon's return tonight to report on the talks. There had been speculation the national security adviser might fly immediately to California where the President is campaigning.

This was the first time that Kissinger met with Le Duc Tho, a member of the Hanoi Politburo, and Xuan Thuy, the chief North Vietnamese negotiator, for sessions lasting more than one day.

Yesterday's reports of a Paris breakthrough appeared to be based on this fact and on intensive diplomatic speculation here that decisive progress was made in the talks.

The most detailed of those reports came from Clifford Evans, White House correspondent for several radio networks, who said that the

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deadlock in the peace talks "is expected to be resolved by the resignation of (President Nguyen Van) Thieu who will be replaced by a three-party coalition government."

Thieu's removal has been demanded by Hanoi as a key condition for a political settlement of the war.

Administration officials, speaking privately, suggested late yesterday that Kissinger's two-day stay in Paris was motivated by his desire for what one official called "sober" examination of the latest proposals formulated by the National Liberation Front and Hanoi delegates.

That proposal, made publicly on September 11, said

that a settlement should be based on the recognition that two governments and two armies exist in South Vietnam.

Although Kissinger said at a news conference here on September 15, a day after meeting with the North Vietnamese in Paris, that the new language still "left something to be desired," administration officials said that the White House had wanted to explore it further.

This, officials speculated, may have been the reason for Kissinger's return to the French capital on Monday.

Last night, one official said that it could be safely speculated that Kissinger had had an opportunity for "sober" talks with the North Vietnamese in the last two days.