

KISSINGER MEETS HANOI AIDES AGAIN SECRETLY IN PARIS

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White House Indicates Talks
May Be Continued Today—

Gen. Haig Also Attends
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 — Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, held another private meeting in Paris today with North Vietnam's top negotiators. The White House, in making the announcement, left open the possibility that they might meet again tomorrow.

As usual, no substantive details on the session were made public, either here or in Paris. This was Mr. Kissinger's 19th such trip to the French capital since August, 1969, when he began the series of private negotiations aimed at obtaining a Vietnam settlement.

It followed by less than two weeks' his last meetings on Sept. 26 and 27 with the same two men, Le Duc Tho, the Hanoi Politburo member who has responsibility for the peace negotiations, and Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's regular chief delegate at the Paris talks.

Haig Attends Talks

A new factor today was the presence for the first time on the American side of Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who serves as Mr. Kissinger's deputy and who held talks last week in Saigon with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam. No reason for General Haig's attendance at the talks was given by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, who made the announcement of the Paris session this morning.

But another White House aide suggested that because

General Haig had an up-to-date understanding of President Thieu's views, he would be of help to Mr. Kissinger if the talks, as expected, dealt with a possible political settlement in Saigon, which would of necessity have to involve Mr. Thieu's Government.

The accelerated pace of these private Paris talks and the far-ranging travels of General Haig and Mr. Kissinger in recent weeks have led to considerable speculation here and abroad about the course of the Vietnam negotiations.

Details Are Kept Secret

Some publications and political figures have speculated that a settlement seemed more likely than ever. Others have been skeptical that a breakthrough was imminent.

Precise information on the course of the negotiations has been almost impossible to obtain. Only a few top officials in Washington and Hanoi know the details of the private talks. Other American officials who might normally expect to be informed, particularly in the State Department, have been deprived by the White House of current information, to prevent possible leaks to the press.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, appearing today on the Columbia Broadcasting Sys-

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tem television program "Face the Nation," said he knew what was happening in Paris and described the talks as "serious, significant and very sensitive." But he gave no details.

President Nixon, in his most recent comments on Vietnam, made at a news conference three days ago, said only that "the negotiations are in a sensitive stage."

"I cannot predict and will not predict that they will or will not succeed," he said. "I cannot and will not predict when they will succeed."

Because of speculation that Mr. Nixon for political reasons was pressing for a settlement before the elections Nov. 7, the President said that "under no circumstances" would a Vietnam agreement be affected by the timing of elections.

Senator George McGovern, his Democratic opponent, is scheduled to disclose his own night. In doing so, he will again attack Mr. Nixon for not having carried out a pledge made in 1968 to end the war during his four-year term in office.

Tuesday will be the fourth anniversary of a statement made by Mr. Nixon, then a Presidential candidate, that if a President could not achieve a peace in four years he did not deserve to be re-elected.

From what has been said publicly, a Vietnam agreement has been blocked largely because of the serious disagreements over what kind of government might emerge from a settlement.

Mr. Nixon said at his news conference that the settlement "will come just as soon as we can possibly get a settlement which is right, right for the South Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese, and for us, one that will have in mind our goals of preventing the imposition by force of a Communist government in South Vietnam and, of course, a goal that is particularly close to our hearts,

in a humanitarian sense, the return of our prisoners of war."

In their most recent public proposals, the North Vietnamese, and the Vietcong have insisted that their proposal for an interim government made up from three elements would not impose Communist rule on South Vietnam but would prevent continued pro-American rule.

Under that proposal, Mr. Thieu would resign and a coalition, made up of Vietcong, elements from the current Saigon Government and neutralists would take over power, write a new constitution and hold new elections for a permanent government.

Publicly, the United States has rejected the Communist proposal as a smokescreen for a Vietcong take-over, and Mr. Thieu last night, in a national broadcast, called the proposal "a wicked design" in which the Communists, having failed to win militarily, were seeking to take over South Vietnam by political means.

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