

Paris Talks to Enter 3d Day As McGovern Sets Viet Talk

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An unusual third day of talks is scheduled today between presidential envoy Henry A. Kissinger and North Vietnam's negotiators in Paris, with no public clue about the prospects for an accord.

The extension of the secret bargaining into a third day coincides with Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern's nationwide address tonight on his rival plan for ending the war in Vietnam. Kissinger is likely to be on his

way back from his 19th round of secret talks in Paris at about the time that Sen. McGovern speaks, at 7:30 p.m.

President Nixon at his news conference last Thursday disavowed any link between politics and negotiations to end the war. McGovern campaign committees, and presumably the candidate's speech tonight, however, are zeroed in on Mr. Nixon's 1968 campaign pledge that "Those who have had a chance for four years and could not produce peace,

should not be given another chance."

As a result, each day that the current Kissinger negotiations have been prolonged has brought intensified speculation that a breakthrough in the negotiating stalemate might be imminent, despite President Nixon's disclaimer that his policy is influenced in any way by the approach of election day.

The White House limited itself once again yesterday to the bare announcement of the

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meetings. In mid-afternoon, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the second day of talks in the discussions that resumed Sunday was completed, and "they will meet a third day."

No official claim of progress, or lack of it, has been made in the bargaining in which Kissinger for the first time is accompanied by his White House deputy, Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who last week held secret talks in Saigon. The principals on the North Vietnam side are Politburo member Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy, official chief of the Hanoi delegation.

Outwardly, there is no sign yet that any compromise has been struck on the prime political demand by North Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, known in the West as the Vietcong, for the removal of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu and the regime he rules.

Diplomatic observers, watching for clues about the secret bargaining, are intently listen-

ing for any outcry from Thieu that could signify his fear of being sacrificed to the Communist demand to replace him with a three-segment coalition "government of national concord."

So far there has been no such outcry from Thieu. To some specialists on Indochina, this signifies that the talks are still in a probing stage, with the United States possibly proposing a variation on the American-South Vietnamese offer of last January for a new presidential election with Thieu to resign a month before it takes place.

Communist negotiators rejected the January offer partially because it would only have Thieu step down prior to a presidential election, while they insist on replacing the entire political structure of South Vietnam.

From Paris yesterday, Jonathan C. Randal of The Washington Post's Foreign Service, noted that diplomatic observers there were struck by the emphasis that North Vietnamese broadcasts placed on this difference since the current Kissinger-Tho talks began.

A Hanoi broadcast on Monday stated: "To consider that the present puppet administration of Nguyen Van Thieu is the 'only constitutional government' in South Vietnam, and that any 'election' would only be a 'presidential election,' is to take no account of the realities at present in South Vietnam."

This would indicate that the Communist side is insisting that a prerequisite to any compromise requires agreement on replacing the existing political system.

The United States has said, in effect, that it is prepared to give the Vietcong "a fair crack at the political issue," as Kissinger put it publicly last Jan. 26, but not a "guarantee" to overturn the Thieu regime. At that time, Kissinger said that as the military and supply system worsens for the Communist side, "they may settle for a political process which gives them less than 100 per cent guarantee" of overturning the Thieu regime.

Privately, U.S. officials recognize that no party to the Vietnam war will gamble on a

Western-style election without fairly solid knowledge of just about what it would produce. As a result, the bargaining about who controls the political process, even if it is to be confirmed in an election, becomes the critical issue in such a solution.